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From the Editor's Desk



The *Oxyglossum* Section of *Dendrobium* contains some of the most brightly coloured and long lasting blooms within this diverse genus. Ron Parsons from California introduces us to a range of species from this group, also showing the variations among some of the taxa and providing cultivation pointers. As we know, Ron is an expert photographer, and has been making annual trips to Australia since 2000 and has become a sought after speaker. I have seen the way Ron grows many of his miniature orchids, under lights, in the basement to his home in San Francisco and his culture is superb. Ron has also provided the photographs for a *Masdevallia* book that is coming out, through Timber Press, later this year.

Jim Cootes also concludes his pictorial article on some of the *Bulbophyllum* species within the Section *Sestochilus*. "Bulbos" would easily be Jim's favourite genus, and his knowledge on them is quite extensive. As an aside, Jim recently accepted an invitation to present a paper on "Orchids of the Philippines" at Speakers Day in New York to be held in late October 2005.

Two of the Australian speakers from the recent World Orchid Conference in France have contributed articles this issue. Ray Clement presented a paper on "The Commercial Importance of Australian Native Orchids". It emphasises that numerous native orchids and their hybrids have potential as "pot plants". Part one of that article appears in this issue. Mark Clements, along with partner Anne Mackenzie, wrote a short piece on virus in orchids, that has been used in the Australian Orchid Foundations "Awareness Program" – a series of short papers that have been distributed to orchid societies in Australia for use in their newsletters and as discussion topics at meetings. This paper has been reproduced here for the wider audience. At the WOC, Mark spoke on the recent developments regarding the classification of the genus *Dendrobium* and its sister genera. It is clear that *Dendrobium*, as we currently know it, will be split into numerous "new" and "old" genera. We will have more on this in future issues.

It's always very sad when we hear of losses within the orchid community. Dean Roesler passed away on Anzac Day in April, after a long battle with cancer. Dean contributed so much to the orchid fraternity over many years, both as an expert hybridiser of his beloved cymbidiums (and especially *Cymbidium suave* hybrids), and as a writer through the pages of the *AOR*. Dean, as editor and later co-editor of the *Cymbidium Australia* section of the *AOR*, wrote numerous articles in a leisurely style, as if he was right there next to you. His name will live on to those who knew him and in the many fine orchids he was responsible for.

As mentioned last issue, Ray Dix from New Zealand, famous worldwide for his red cymbidiums, also passed away after a long illness. Chris Hubbert, has written a tribute to his fellow countryman in this issue.

At my local orchid society, we sadly lost two life members within the past few weeks. Betty Pauley (along with her late husband Ern) were foundation members of the Parramatta and District Orchid Society back in 1950. In recent years Betty was also the Patron of the Society, and held in very high esteem by the members, and was always present at the monthly meetings, which will not be the same without her there. The famous *Dendrobium kingianum* 'Betty' was named after her. Marion Mansley was Secretary for 18 years (1987-2005) and along with husband Alan were hardworking members of the Society, especially at show time. Marion's sudden passing was a shock to those who knew her.

May they rest in peace.

David P. Banks
Editor, Australian Orchid Review
dpbanks@ozemail.com.au

OUR COVER



Dendrobium Mondrook – A new Australian *Dendrobium* hybrid (Tie-Dye x *speciosum*) made by Sid Burton and registered by Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids. See Ray's article on Australian Orchids in this issue. Photo: D.P. Banks

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Dendrobium cyanocentrum

Some Me *Dendrobium* Sec

Text and photos



Dendrobium hellwigianum

Members of the Genus *Oxyglossum*

by Ron Parsons

As it currently stands, *Dendrobium* is one of the largest genera in the Orchidaceae with well over 1400 species. The plants occur from northwest India north to Japan, east to island in the South Pacific and south to southeast Australia. The section *Oxyglossum* (and I'm including *Cuthbertsonia* in here also) has more than two-dozen species, mostly from New Guinea (both Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya) but also distributed from Fiji in the east to parts of Indonesia in the west.

Most of the species in this section are 'mountain' or montane species with some even considered alpine being found up to 3800 meters, but a couple are found at quite low elevations. The plants usually grow in areas of high humidity and moisture, sometimes in clumps of moss on tree trunks and branches. Some even grow on the trunks of tree ferns and rocks.

I am very fond of plants in this group, and I am growing or have grown the following species: *Dendrobium vexillarius* varieties, *hellowigianum*, *seranicum*, *subulifolium*, *cyanocentrum*, *brassii*, *masarangense*, *petiolatum*, *delicatulum*, *pentapterum*, *violaceum*, *prasinum*, *laevifolium*, *cuthbertsonii* and the closely related *agathodaemonis*. I will talk about culture a bit more with the individual species, but basically I grow them all under fluorescent lighting in a light stand. I give them as pure water as possible using reserve-osmosis water daily, and feed them a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer at 1/4 teaspoon strength once a week. The plants are grown with 21-24 degrees Celsius (70-75 degrees Fahrenheit) during the day and around 12-15 degrees Celsius (55-60 degrees Fahrenheit) at night. I also have a fan blowing on them all the time.

I will now discuss the species that I have experience with:

Dendrobium cyanocentrum is the type species of the section, and is from New Guinea. It is a very charming species that is quite small. The plant is about 35mm tall with narrow cigar-shaped pseudobulbs and narrow leaves, often with purple pigment. The flowers, which looking like a diving jet plane are about 10-12 mm across, and can range in colour from almost white to an incredibly intense purple with a few darker lines. I have grown it in a small ceramic pot with New Zealand Sphagnum moss, but also mounted on cork oak bark with a little moss.

Dendrobium subuliferum is a species that I have only seen once at the National Botanical Gardens in Canberra growing in the living herbarium collection. It is another New Guinean

Dendrobium subacaule



Dendrobium subuliferum

species. I have a small plant that has not bloomed yet but is growing well. The plant is very similar to that of *D. cyanocentrum*, but the flowers are pure white and have noticeably broad petals. I am growing this mounted with a bit of moss.

Dendrobium subacaule is a plant that I do not have but have seen in the collection of Phil and Ann Jesup of Connecticut. It too is a small plant, and the bright red flowers were about 8-10mm across. It occurs New Guinea as well as the Solomon Islands and Moluccas.

Dendrobium masarangense is a species I had growing on a bit





Dendrobium masarangense



Dendrobium masarangense

of tree fern that did quite well for around four years, then did a slow decline and I was unable to save it. My plant was again about 30-35mm tall with narrow leaves, and had solid greenish-white flowers that were usually in pairs. The flowers lasted about one month, but I once read they lasted up to six months (I want one of those!). In addition to greenish-white flowers, the species also comes in white, yellow and orange, and sometimes has a orange or red lip. There are two subspecies.

Dendrobium brassii is a species that I have just obtained and I have not flowered it nor have I seen one to photograph. I have the plant growing in a small ceramic pot in moss and it appears to like that just fine. It has quite round pseudobulbs topped by a single leaf with a distinct petiole (an unusual feature in this section). It has pink flowers with an orange lip. The species is from eastern New Guinea.

Dendrobium vexillarius is one of my favourites in this group. I have three plants, two that are orange and one that is a strange pink. One of the orange flowered plants is of the variety *uncinatum*, and I named it 'Marni' after my friend Marni Turkel who gave it to me. It had around 50 flowers on it when it was awarded an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) from the American Orchid Society. It has bulbs that are 12cm tall, cigar-shaped, and flowers on canes with and without leaves. The flowers are a little over 25mm in length and have a red lip with a blackish-green underside. The other orange-flowered plant is a new acquisition. The pink flowered individual is one that was collected by Dick Emory, one of our San Francisco Orchid Society members' years ago on a trip to New Guinea. It currently has 40 flowers on it. It has canes that about 15cm and they are heavily spotted with purple as are the leaf bases. The species has six varieties, and is the most common species of this section in New Guinea. The flowers come in many different colours, and the plants in many sizes from about 1/2cm up to 30cm! This is one of a few species that I grow in fine fir bark, and they thrive.

Dendrobium sulphureum is another species I have not (yet) grown but it is quite a charming thing. The plant I saw had 10mm flowers with a bright orange lip, and were quite flat. It actually

Dendrobium sulphureum





Dendrobium vexillarius (2 clones RP)

looks quite like a miniature *D. vexillarius*. This plant of a New Guinean species was collected by Dr. Ernest Katler, another San Francisco member on a trip there.

Dendrobium delicatulum is one of the smallest members in this group, and is divided into three subspecies. It is one of the widest ranging species too, coming from New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sulawesi, Fiji, Vanuatu and Micronesia. My plant, which I no longer have, had pseudobulbs with a pair of leaves each 4-5mm. My plant was ssp. *huliorum*, a form that has small whitish flowers that do not open much. The plant is a little

creeper, and is best grown on a mount. There is also has a very lovely form that is a beautiful, strange blue with a red lip, and the flowers opening widely. I have to say that I will not replace the one I lost unless I can obtain one of the blue forms.

Dendrobium seranicum is a lovely species from the island of Seram, which is part of Indonesia. It has a plant about 10cm tall, with narrow cigar-shaped bulbs and topped by narrow thinnish leaves that are 5-7cm long. The flowers of my plant are almost 25mm long including pedicel, and are rich pink with a purplish labellum. It seems to bloom sporadically throughout the year and

Dendrobium vexillarius ssp. *uncinatum* 'Marni' HCC/AOS



Dendrobium delicatulum





Dendrobium seranicum

Dendrobium petiolatum



Dendrobium prasinum

the flowers last 6-8 weeks. I grow my plant mounted on cork with moss added.

Dendrobium pentapterum is one plant that never seems to be without flowers. The 3cm flowers are a lovely white with a hint of green, and a bright orange lip. The plant is about 12cm tall, with bulbs about 5cm and the flowers bloom with one or two at a time per bulb. It seems to thrive potted in moss in ceramic pots. The species comes from eastern New Guinea.

Dendrobium hellwigianum is another plant that seems to bloom all the time, but unlike *D. pentapterum* it takes a break

Dendrobium violaceum





Dendrobium laevifolium

occasionally. The 10cm tall plant has bulbs around 1.5-2cm in length and quite thin, semi-terete leaves that are channelled. The 20mm flowers typically come in two colour forms, one is a steely blue and the other is pink, and both forms have an orange-red lip. I have both colour forms of this species, and I grow them both mounted on cork with moss and potted in fine fir bark. Both cultures seem to work fine. Evidently this species is quite common in its eastern New Guinean home.

Dendrobium violaceum is a shy bloomer for me. I have grown it both mounted and potted but neither culture seems to coax it to bloom much. That is a shame as it has lovely 3cm pink flowers with an orange lip that are darkish on the underside. It may be that it doesn't like fluorescent light culture as I have friends that bloom it regularly in their greenhouses. It occurs throughout New Guinea and has two subspecies in which the only difference seems to be the width of the leaves. My plant is about 15cm tall with very narrow leaves, and it may be the subspecies called *cyperifolium*.

Dendrobium nebularum is one species in this section that I would not care to grow. It has a tallish plant, 15-20cm, that is quite similar to the plant of some *D. vexillarius*, but with insipid greenish flowers that don't want to seem to open much. Why bother? Evidently it comes in a purplish-red form too so maybe I shouldn't be hasty. Anyway it comes from eastern New Guinea and Seram Island. Since I have not grown this species, I cannot comment except to say that I have seen it grown in bright cool and less bright intermediate greenhouses.

Dendrobium petiolatum is one of my plants that I am still waiting for it to bloom. The species has clusters of flowers that usually bloom on the top of bulbs that have gone deciduous, and number 4-20 flowers. They are brilliant magenta-purple with an orange lip. The leaves can get quite large, and that may have to do with its preference for very shady conditions in the habitat on New Guinea, New Britain and the Solomon Islands. I noticed that this species has bright orange root tips when I repotted it. I grow it in ceramic pots in moss and it seems to be doing very well.

The next few species are sometimes included in section *Cuthbertsonia*, and even more recently into a new genus, *Maccraithia*, named for Gerald McCraith of the Australian Orchid Foundation.

Dendrobium laevifolium





Dendrobium laevifolium 'Aureum'

The first, *Dendrobium prasinum*, is a species from the Fiji Islands, and is a lovely plant. It has a plant that can reach 15-16cm tall with paired leaves atop roundish pseudobulbs. The beautiful, solid white flowers are about 5cm across, and usually emerge from the tops of the bulbs that have gone deciduous. It seems to prefer bright light (at least in my conditions) and slightly warmer temperatures than its relatives. The flowers last 6-8 weeks in perfection. I grow this one mounted and have it hung close to the lights.

Dendrobium laevifolium is a close relative to the next species,

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Apricot form EK)



D. cuthbertsonii but differs in plant habit. The leaves are large, up to 10cm or so, smooth in texture, and are dark green on the top with heavy reddish-purple pigment underneath. The plants can grow to 15cm in height, and can bloom so heavily you can hardly see the plant (I wish mine did that). The flowers are brilliant magenta with a light yellow lip, but I've seen a plant that was almost albino yet with the same yellow lip. I grow this species in ceramic with moss.

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii, which was once known as *D. sophronites*, is one of my favourite orchids, which is why I have

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Pui Chin's display basket)





Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Pink & White Bicolour RP)

so many! It is like a collection of jewels with its 5cm long flowers that come in so many colours. I have plants with flowers of red, bright orange, light orange, orange-yellow, light yellow, red bicolour with orange petal tips, bright purple-magenta, bright magenta with a whitish lip, bright magenta with an orange lip, and pink bicolour with white tips! All colour forms have a dark margin to the labellum. These are not 'hybridised' colours, but ones that occur in nature. Another amazing trait to this species is that flowers typically last up to 6 months but is not unusual to have them last 9 months! They are always in bloom. Some plants

have flowers that are open quite wide, about 3.5-4cm while others seem only to open about 2-2.5cm. The plants themselves are also charming with dark green leaves that are heavily textured and bumpy. The bulbs are usually 2-5 cm in length with the ones in the centre of the plants tending to be longer. Some forms of the species also have bulbs that seem to 'climb', ones growing on top of others. I obtained my first plants about 10 years ago, but before that the plants were owned by few people and were highly coveted. The plants that became available in the San Francisco area were from pods produced from collected plants of San

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii 'China Sun'



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Bench of Tom Perlite's plants)





Dendrobium cuthbertsonii 'Laiagam Sunshine'

Francisco Orchid Society members who had brought plants back from New Guinea. The plants in nature grow on mossy tree trunks and branches, and tree fern trunks, and can often have hot, bright sun during the day. The nights bring the cool, moist conditions that the plants require. An interesting note is that one San Francisco member said he saw the plants frequently on steep road-cuts growing in red soil, and another reported walking into an elfin forest and being surrounded by the stunted trees laced with *D. cuthbertsonii* of all colours! The plants grow at fairly high elevations, so they should be grown in cool-intermediate to

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Group of Tom Perlite's plants)



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii 'Orange Splash'



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii 'Pink Ball'





Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Purple EK)

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Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Purple SB)



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii 'Walter Teague'

cool condition in cultivation. I grow mine in ceramic pots in New Zealand Sphagnum moss, and I transplant them every year to year and a half. Probably the best grower of these plants that I know of is Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids in San Francisco. He has huge plants of many colour forms growing in 15cm shallow bulb pots in moss. His plants are covered in blooms, but once a year he repots them, pulling them out of the pots, removing the moss and giving the roots a 'haircut'. In addition, he removes all of the flowers at that time. I usually remove most but I cannot bring myself to take them all off!

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii (Yellow TP)

The last species I will discuss is something that has been dismissed as just a synonym of *D. cuthbertsonii* in the monograph on *Oxyglossums*. *Dendrobium agathodaemonis* is obviously a close relative but differs in quite a few ways. First, the plants are much smaller with tiny, reduced bulbs about 1cm in length, and the leaves are about the size of rice grains, 5-7mm. The leaves are not textured, but instead are quite smooth. The flowers too are smaller, about 25mm, and lack any dark edging to the lip that all colour forms of *D. cuthbertsonii* have. I obtained my plant of this species from John Leathers of Berkeley, CA. I think I





Dendrobium agathadaemonis (rare pink form)

pleaded with him for a small division when he repotted it. He had two plants in tree fern baskets, but one day he came up to me with a division of at least fifty bulbs! I couldn't believe it. John is absolutely one of the best growers of miniature cool-growing orchids around, but it seemed that he could only get a bloom or two at a time out of his plants. I confess that I had to brag when my piece covered itself with 23 flowers within 6 months after putting it under my lights.

This group of orchids is truly amazing and I hope to see as many of them as possible in nature someday. ■

Ron Parsons
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Dendrobium agathadaemonis (mature plant in bloom)



Dendrobium agathadaemonis (flower detail)





Bulbophyllum incisilabrum



Bulbophyllum inunctum

Bulbophyllum Section *Sestochilus*

Part 2

by Jim Cootes

Bulbophyllum incisilabrum J.J. Vermeulen & P. O'Byrne 2003

This recently named species is endemic to Sulawesi where it grows as an epiphyte at elevations of about 1,200 metres. I would doubt that there are any plants of this lovely species in cultivation, as it is only known from the type collection. Thanks to Peter O'Byrne, in Singapore, for the use of his picture.

Bulbophyllum inunctum J.J. Smith 1906

Appears to be endemic to the island of Borneo at low elevations where it grows as an epiphyte. This magnificent species has very large flowers which are about 12 cm across the petals. The illustrated clone has much longer petals than is normal and the colour of the blooms is also different.

Bulbophyllum lobbii Lindley 1847

Appears to be the most widely distributed species of the section if taken in the broad sense. This species has been recorded from India, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Western Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Flores and the Philippines. A number of the forms and varieties of this species



Bulbophyllum lobbii



Bulbophyllum lobbii (Lake Toba, Sumatra)



Bulbophyllum membranifolium



Bulbophyllum signatum

have, recently been given, specific status. The flowers of *Bulbophyllum lobbii* are the largest of any member of this section, which are known to the author. If the petals did not reflex in this species, the blooms would be about 10 cm in diameter. *Bulbophyllum lobbii* is the type species for the section *Sestochilus*.

***Bulbophyllum macranthum* Lindley 1844**

Another wide spread species that is recorded from Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, Western Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Borneo and the Philippines. A stately species, which is sweetly perfumed. The flowers are up to 4 cm in diameter and are non-resupinate i.e. the labellum is uppermost.

***Bulbophyllum membranifolium* Hooker f. 1890**

Is an extremely beautiful species and I have seen clones that are bright yellow with a deep red labellum; orange; red; pale orange heavily spotted with red, in fact most sunset shades. This is usually a lowland species and it has been recorded from Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines. Flowers are about 3 cm in diameter.

***Bulbophyllum patens* King 1890**

This charming species has been found

in Borneo, Thailand, Western Malaysia and Sumatra. The flowers are up to 3 cm in diameter. There are persistent bristle-like hairs from each internode of the rhizome. The flowers are scented.

***Bulbophyllum piestoglossum* J.J. Vermeulen 1994**

A Philippine endemic species, which is only known from the east coast of Luzon and Mount Makiling in the province of Laguna. It grows as an epiphyte at elevations of between 500 and 800 metres. If the petals did not reflex in this species, the blooms would be about 6 cm in diameter. Sold in the Philippines as *B. alsiosum* Ames, but be warned you could end up with any of a number of *Bulbophyllum* species if you dare to purchase.

***Bulbophyllum pileatum* Lindley 1844**

This species is known from Sumatra, Peninsular Malaysia and throughout Borneo. It grows as an epiphyte at elevations of around 1,000 metres in Borneo. It's habitat in Sumatra and Peninsular Malaysia is in the lowlands, up to about 200 metres. Another species that is seldom seen in cultivation. Thanks to Peter O'Byrne, in Singapore, for the use of his picture.

***Bulbophyllum santosii* Ames 1915**

Is endemic to the Philippines and is

found throughout the archipelago at elevations up to 800 metres. In the Sydney region it is a very reluctant bloomer much to the annoyance of those of us who grow this species. The flowers are about 3 cm in diameter and an inflorescence can bear several blooms which open simultaneously.

***Bulbophyllum signatum* J.J. Vermeulen 1996**

This beautiful species has only been found in Sarawak on the island of Borneo at low elevations. The specific epithet refers to the blotched blooms. The bright purple labellum is a very striking feature of this rarely seen orchid.

Cultivation:

The species from section *Sestochilus*, described above are all amenable to cultivation. Well-grown plants make spectacular specimens when in full flower. The only problem that may occur is whether to grow the specimens on a mount or grow them in a pot. Both methods of culture have their advantages and disadvantages. The problem with a pot is to find one large enough to accommodate the plants, as they all have lengthy rhizomes, which soon find their way over the edge of a container. The advantage of a pot is that humidity can be better maintained



Bulbophyllum pileatum



Bulbophyllum santosii



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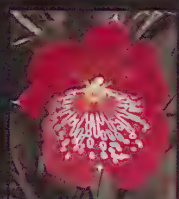
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Highlight of 2005 - Cascading Cymbidiums



Some of the seedling crosses to be released in 2005

Cym. Sarah Jean 'Peach' x Sarah Jean 'Vapour'
Cym. Sarah Jean 'Peach' x Sarah Jean 'Peach'
Cym. Devonianum CC/AM/OSCOV x pumilum
Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' x devonianum
Cym. Sarah Jean 'Green Ice' x Summer Cloud
Cym. Tethys 'Black Magic' x Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'
Cym. Tethys 'Black Magic' x Dag 'Little Jewel'
Cym. Devon Parish x Sarah Jean 'Vapour'
Cym. Devon Parish 'No 1' x Little Sarah '1001'
Cym. Dolly 'Featherhill' x Ruby Eyes 'Tetra Barron'
Cym. Sarah Jean 'Green Ice' x devonianum
Cym. Sarah Jean 'Peach' x Sarah Jean 'Vapour'

Orchid World have become world famous for cascading cymbidiums, each year a selection of new mericlones and seedlings are released during the Orchid Spectacular. This year we will offer over 50 different cascading orchid mericlones and many new seedlings.



New seedlings pictured

Above left, Cym. (Sarah Jean x Yowie Flame)
Above right, Cym. (Sarah Jean x Sleeping Nymph)
left, Little Sarah 'Snow Flake'

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Bulbophyllum piestoglossum



Bulbophyllum patens

about the base of the plant because of the potting mix.

The best mounts I have used are lengths of tree fern fibre as they hold moisture for longer periods. Well-weathered fence palings or natural cork bark could also be used but they dry out very quickly. A point worth remembering, when growing plants on mounts, is that a mount hung horizontally will not dry out as quickly as one hung vertically.

It is always a good idea to first place the plant on the mount then place sphagnum moss along the sides of the rhizome before tying the plant to the mount. The mounts don't have to be too wide; maximum of 10 cms is sufficient, even narrower if only one growth is to be mounted. Once a plant is well established it is easy to keep the plant on the mount by tying any wayward growths back towards the mount. Be warned new growths are extremely brittle and should not be touched until they are fully matured.

To mount an orchid I place the plant on the mount and drill small holes (3-mm diameter) on each side of the rhizome, behind each pseudobulb. Then make a "U"-shaped piece of wire and place it in the holes and tighten the wire, not too tightly as to crush the rhizome, but tight enough so the plant can't wriggle on the mount. A plant securely mounted, in the

first place, will attach to the mount much quicker than if it is loose. The reason being is that if the plant is loose, new roots will not grow – because they are rubbed off at the point of attachment, and consequently the plant will not attach to the mount.

Of the above mentioned species I have only grown *Bulbophyllum affine* and *B. facetum* without artificial heat in the winter in south-west Sydney. *Bulbophyllum affine* thrived under these conditions but *B. facetum* does much better if the winter minimum does not get below 10 degrees Celsius. All the other species were kept at a minimum of 12 degrees Celsius and grew and flowered satisfactorily, except *B. baileyi* which needs a winter minimum of at least 15 degrees Celsius with 18 degrees Celsius being ideal for this tropical low-land orchid.

All the plants were grown in a glass-house under 50% shade cloth, had a large fan running 24 hours a day to keep the air moving and humidity was maintained at about 70% by constantly dampening underneath the benches and path way.

Plants were fertilised with both organic and inorganic fertilisers in small quantities of about half of the manufacturer's recommendation. For example if the bottle or packet states 5 millilitres per litre of water use 5 millilitres in 2 litres water. Amongst the members of section *Sestochilus* are

some of the most beautiful of all orchid species and I feel certain there would be a plant in this section to satisfy the most fastidious of growers.

Acknowledgements:

My sincere thanks to David P. Banks, Gary Yong Gee, Ron Parsons, Rudi Hromniak, Peter O'Byrne, David Titmuss and Dr. Jaap Vermeulen for the images used to illustrate this article.

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The Commercial Importance of Australian Native Orchids

Part 1

by Ray Clement

For over a century, orchid enthusiasts have hybridised exotic orchids in an effort to create improved varieties with brighter colours, longer lasting blooms and an extended flowering season. For many years' Australian orchids were largely ignored, however this has changed dramatically over the past three decades. Our native orchid species are also being

cross-pollinated to produce new hybrids. As of the beginning of 2005, in excess of 1500 Australian native orchid hybrids have been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society in London.

Whilst botanists have been absorbed with the study of the Australian flora since European settlement, it was not until the second half of the 20th Century that horti-

culturalists took a serious interest in Australian Native Orchids and their obvious potential in hybridisation.

In the late 1950s, Ira Butler of Sydney was active in creating his own breeding lines in an attempt to produce horticulturally superior hybrids, in the hope that this would take the pressure off wild populations of native orchids. Whilst a backyard hobbyist, some of his selected hybrids were later marketed through Bill & Jean Cannons of Wayside Nursery, Port Macquarie, New South Wales.

In the 1960s Noel Jupp of Riverdene Nursery in East Gresford, New South Wales bred many new hybrids from plants in cultivation and pollen he had collected. He then grew these crosses to blooming size and also offered seedlings in 50 mm and 80 mm pots for sale to hobbyists. Riverdene Nursery was arguably the first nursery to advertise and produce a mail order catalogue of Australian native orchid hybrids. Primarily these featured dendrobiums, however there were also a sprinkling of *Sarcanthinae* hybrids. His early catalogues feature grexes that now form the basis of many of the commercial hybrids produced today. Arguably his most famous cross was *Dendrobium* Star of Gold (*tetragonum* x *falcorostrum*), and there were many other hybrids that featured the name 'Star' or 'Jupp'. However his breeding milestone was a sibling cross between two wild clones of *D. tetragonum* var. *giganteum* (*D. capitisyork*) from north Queensland that had a suffused pink labellum. Seedlings from that mating would form the most dominant influence in future Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. Its influence is evident in the plethora of *tetragonum* hybrids that feature a pink to deep purple labellum, which is carried through, and is intensified, in subsequent generations.

Sid Batchelor of Yondi Orchids and Reg Sheen of R & D Orchids were some of Noel Jupp's early customers and their later commercial success is partly due to the genetic material that they purchased from him.

During this time, there was a group of specialist growers in New South Wales that were also developing their own breeding lines and styles. This included notable



The late Sid Batchelor with *Dendrobium kingianum* 'Betty' (named after Betty Pauley)



The late George Colthup's famous garden *Dendrobium speciosum*



Dendrobium Delicatum 'Big Red'



Dendrobium Delicatum 'Pretty Good' HCC/AOC

commercial breeders such as Wal Upton of Double U Orchids, Phil Spence of Orchid Productions, Ted Gregory of Merrellen Orchids and John Purvis of Brolga Orchids.

Since then, these and many other breeders have used almost every conceivable combination of species and many subse-

quent hybrids, to produce plants appealing to the hobbyist. In fact, almost exclusively, breeders have catered for the hobbyist. The accent has been on producing something new and different. Many very surprising results have been achieved, some good and some not so good.

Today modern hybridists now have a

huge advantage with the benefit of hindsight into past breeding successes and failures. Now is the time and opportunity to use this knowledge to produce commercially viable pot plants and garden plants for the horticultural industry. I have deliberately separated Australian Native Orchids into pot and garden plants. I believe, whilst they have a bright future as pot plants, even greater potential exists as low maintenance garden plants, whether grown in pot or a more permanent fixture in the garden landscape. This is based on the fact that these plants are highly adaptable and tolerant of a wide range of conditions and climatic variations.

I would like to comment on what I believe are the two main groups that offer the most commercial potential.

DENDROBIUMS

The development of Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids now spreads over eight generations. By looking back at the hybridising successes achieved, a clear direction is evident. When assessing these successes from a commercial point of view, a number of factors need to be taken into account for assessment. In short these are:

- * Plants are easy to grow.
- * Plants mature quickly, with many giving a preview flowering as juvenile seedlings.



Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory 'BM'

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- * Plants are tolerant of a wide range of climatic conditions.
- * Plants can cope with hot summer temperatures.
- * Protected plants can endure short periods of winter minimums at the frost level.
- * Plants have an attractive and compact growth habit.
- * Growth habit is upright and does not require training.
- * Plants produce a profusion of blooms in a range of attractive colours.
- * Blooms have an appealing fragrance, in both the species and hybrids.
- * Blooms are generally small in size, from 25mm to 50 mm.
- * Flowers and inflorescences are self-supporting.
- * Pseudobulbs will rebloom from dormant buds over successive years.
- * Blooms remain in good condition for 2 – 4 weeks.

All of this makes these plants more suited as general nursery pot and/or garden plants and their potential in this regard is virtually untapped. One advantage of these Australian hybrids is their durability. Most flowering pot plants are discarded after blooming, however these orchids are suited for customers who want the thrill of producing subsequent flowerings over many years, and this can be achieved in a frost free climate. These dendrobiums can be left as potted plants, or incorporated into the garden, either in rockeries or as feature plants attached to suitable trees that do not shed their bark.

• To be concluded next issue.

(Photos by Ray Clement, David Banks, the late Sid Batchelor and selected award slides from ANOS and OSNSW archives.)

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Lime, Calcium and pH

by Stephen Early

When pH, lime and calcium are discussed at orchid meetings, there is often considerable confusion about the different terms and effects. Hopefully this article will explain the differences and remove some of the confusion.

pH is a measure of the acidity of a liquid. It is in fact measure of the number of hydrogen ions in the solution. A neutral solution has a pH of 7, while an alkaline solution has a pH greater than 7 and an acidic solution has a pH less than 7. Each change of 1 in a pH number results in a change of 10 in the number of hydrogen ions in the liquid. Thus a change from pH 7 to pH 5 means that the number of hydrogen ions in the solution has increased 100-fold. In other words, the solution has become 100 times more acidic.

Lime. The term *lime* is often used for a number of products that are actually quite different. Lime comes from limestone rock, which is basically calcium carbonate (CaCO_3), its most common impurity being magnesium carbonate (MgCO_3). No purification is done so the exact composition depends on what hill the limestone is dug from. If the limestone is crushed and bagged it is then sold as *Garden Lime*. If it contains a significant amount of magnesium carbonate, then it is sold as *Dolomite Lime*. Calcium carbonate is a stable, relatively insoluble chemical until added to an acidic solution, when the calcium carbonate dissolves and carbon dioxide gas is released; the calcium carbonate only stops reacting with the solution when it has become neutral (pH 7). Hence adding Dolomite Lime to a potting mix will counteract any acidity and will continue to react to maintain neutrality (pH 7) until it is washed out from the pot or consumed (much less likely).

The first step in processing limestone is to crush and heat it. This produces calcium oxide (CaO), a highly alkaline product sold as Lime and sometimes referred to as *quicklime*. I

would never use this product as it is dangerous to handle and quite likely to damage plants because of its high alkalinity. It will increase the pH of a potting mix but may make it far too alkaline for safe use on orchids.

A further processing step is to add water to the Lime to produce *Hydrated Lime* or *Slaked Lime*. This is basically calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)_2), which is an alkaline solid that is slightly soluble in water. It is not as strongly alkaline as Lime and I know some growers who use it. However, it can produce a pH much higher than 7 if added in too large an amount. Both Lime and Hydrated Lime will dissolve in water and over time react with carbon dioxide (a trace component of air) to produce calcium carbonate, particularly when in contact with water.

On the basis of the above discussion, if you wish to add lime I would personally choose *Dolomite Lime*, as it can cause little damage and will react only if the potting mix is acidic.

As you can see, lime is a major source of calcium. However, if you read the information provided on some bags of Dolomite Lime, you will see that it provides calcium only to acid potting mixes – it provides no calcium if the mix is neutral or alkaline. Lime and Hydrated Lime may add more calcium but only by making the mix very alkaline, which would damage the plants.

Calcium nitrate is another source of calcium for plants that is often used. Most calcium salts are fairly insoluble so when adding calcium nitrate I would expect a large amount of the calcium could end up as insoluble material not available to the plant. Certainly the nitrate will supply a good level of nitrogen, which is beneficial. It's a highly desirable additive, as it provides nitrogen to plants without simultaneously increasing the amount of potassium or sodium present.

I am (and this may surprise some people) basically a lazy person. I plan

to add lime to my plants but often forget, so I have looked for another method of controlling pH and adding small amounts of calcium at the same time. I therefore add a small amount of shell grit (*Canunda Shell*) to my potting mix. This is a good source of calcium carbonate which, being fairly coarse, will not wash through the pot when I water. I have often wondered how much is needed so I put my chemistry training to work and did some simple sums. First I assumed a 250 mm pot would hold about 1 litre of water – the rest being solids, plant and air. If the pH was 4 and I wanted to reduce it to 7 then I would need to neutralize 0.0001 grams of hydrogen ion. To do this I would need approximately 0.02 grams of calcium carbonate, a very small amount. It is important for the dolomite lime (or in my case Canunda shell) to be spread evenly throughout the potting mix. More dolomite lime or Canunda shell will be needed to counteract further acidity that develops as the potting mix ages, but the amount required will still be so small as to be almost unnoticeable.

In conclusion, to grow orchids well you need to keep your potting mix neutral (pH 7). This is readily and safely achieved by adding Dolomite Lime to the potting mix. Other forms of Lime have the potential to damage plants, although some growers have used Hydrated Lime. Another method is to add shell grit (Canunda shell) or marble chips to the mix. These materials avoid the need to replace lime as it washes through the pot during watering. The major benefit of calcium treatment is the neutralisation of acidity that develops as pine bark ages, or is introduced by the use of fertilisers. I hope this article has explained the various factors that so often become confused and scrambled at orchid meetings. ■

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Virus In Orchids

by Anne Mackenzie and Mark Clements

The following article is another in an on-going series that forms part of the Australian Orchid Foundation Awareness Campaign.

Viruses are parasites – they only reproduce within cells of the host plant. They take over normal cell functions to divert the metabolism of the host plant into virus production.

A single virus consists of a minimum number of genes encased in a protein structure, and its replication inside the plant cell is absolutely dependent on the metabolic system of the host plant. For this reason there is NO KNOWN CURE for virus infection, as any chemical/drug that will stop virus reproduction will also disrupt the metabolism of the plant cell and probably lead to death of the plant.

Transmission of infection from infected to healthy plants relies on physical damage to the plant tissues, which causes a 'break' in the plant cell wall. This is caused either by mechanical damage or by the vector associated with transmission. Mechanical transmission can occur during vegetative propagation or pruning when

- secateurs or other cutting instruments are used,
- when roots are damaged during division or repotting,
- when leaves rub together in an overcrowded glasshouse, or
- when there is wind damage to any part of the plant.

However, most plant viruses are transmitted by other organisms or 'vectors' that feed on and move between plants. They may be insects (aphids, whitefly, leafhoppers, planthoppers, thrips, beetles), mites or soil-

inhabiting organisms (nematodes, fungi). Some viruses are seed-borne but rarely are all the seedlings reared from one seed lot infected. A few viruses are soil-borne.

Initially, most viruses multiply at the site of infection, causing localised symptoms such as necrotic spots on the leaves due to damage to the plant cells in the immediate vicinity. Systemic infection results when the virus then spreads to all parts of the plant, either by the plant's vascular system or by direct cell-to-cell spread. Multiplication of the virus in the plant cells leads to changes that cause many characteristic symptoms, such as stunting, distortion of leaves and flowers, mosaic patterns or striping of leaves and flowers, yellowing, wilting and infertility.

For accurate confirmation of virus infection, specialised tests MUST be carried out in a laboratory. Tests may involve electron microscopy, serological testing using antibodies to specific viruses, or advanced techniques using molecular genetic techniques. So far, NO KIT has been developed to allow easy detection and diagnosis of virus infection by the orchid grower.

The most effective way of preventing virus infection is to destroy infected plants (or isolate them if seed is required), to control potential vectors of virus transmission, and to wash hands and sterilise tools before each plant is handled.

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Sarcochilus Heidi 'Albert Brown'

(A short story on how it got its name).

by Brian & Phena Gerhard

We have the background to the naming of this plant, which I think maybe of interest to the readers of the Australian Orchid Review (as featured in full colour on the back cover of the February/March 2005 issue). *Sarcochilus* Heidi 'Albert Brown' was one of the plants we benched at the Sydney ANOS Group Sarcanthinae Show in 2004 that subsequently took out Champion *Sarcochilus* Hybrid. Which after the judges of the Ira Butler Trophy had closely examined the 30 plus entrants from around Australia, our 'Heidi' was subsequently awarded the Ira Butler Gold Trophy.

Albert & Val Brown, when they were alive were not only good friends of ours, it was also an absolute delight to be in their presence, both being characters, entrepreneurs and he being a chef and specialist chocolate maker, to name but a few of his attributes. Whilst Val had the knack of getting a lot of laughs from her piers with some of her jokes, at times a little risqué.

They had a stall at the Balmain markets

for many years where they sold all sorts of plants as well as orchids. They were both members of Manly Warringah Orchid Society, which is where we first met them a lot of summers ago, also a few other Societies. During World War 2, Albert, a member of the French resistance and an operative in MI5, managed to escape from a prison camp during WW2. He was in the throws of writing his memoirs, but alas he didn't finish them prior to his leaving this world to go to another. The stories were always intriguing, and no doubt he is telling a few of those to St. Peter, and now Pope John Paul and others in that great Bush House in the Sky.

They had a very large collection of orchids all genera, hybrids and species, when Val was struck down with a major illness; Albert decided he should cut down his collection. We were fortunate enough to be given a number of plants and as it happened one was *Sarcochilus* Heidi hence the varietal name in his honour/memory, thank you Albert. Albert

and Val over the years had bought numerous plants from Down Under Native Orchids and thought they should go back home. This is a very brief outline of the story of Albert Brown, the man, and why we gave our *Sarcochilus* Heidi his name as its varietal epithet.

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Editors Note: This is actually a hybrid I registered back in 1983, between *S. Fitzhart* and *S. hartmannii*. Numerous hybridists using a plethora of different clones have remade this hybrid many times since. The naming of the original cross also has some "orchid history".

On a visit to friends that owned a dairy farm on the banks of the Manning River, near Taree (around 1979-1980), my twin sisters (who were only 11 or 12 at the time) – Kathryn and Fiona – fell in love with a very young turtleshell coloured kitten. They eventually got to take the kitten home, which they later named Heidi, after the owner said, "if they didn't give it a home it will end up in the Manning!" We were visiting the Gregory's, and the person who made that comment was Ted Gregory! – **DPB**

Green With Envy

by Brian Milligan

I've recently seen mention of the use of a product called Envy® for treating orchid seedlings that have just been removed from flask. I first used Envy® for this purpose over ten years ago, when I was regularly deflasking orchids for Issy Klein, but (because I now deflask so few seedlings) eventually fell out of the habit. The following material is abstracted from an item in the May 1994 issue of this newsletter.

Envy® has a variety of uses, not just for deflasking orchids but for orchids of all ages and for plants in general. It is a hydrophilic (water-loving) polymer that, when applied to plants, forms a semi-permeable polymeric film over the leaves. This film slows down the rate of transpiration (water loss) by the leaves by as much as 50%. Consequently plants are better able to withstand hot, dry conditions when treated with Envy®, and are also claimed to grow faster than untreated plants under normal conditions.

Envy® also contains an ultraviolet absorber that reduces sunburn if the treated plants are exposed to excessive light. Technical information about the

plant recommends its use at a dilution of 1 part Envy® to 10 parts water but we obtained satisfactory results with deflasked seedlings at half that concentration.

Envy® is also recommended for treating trees and shrubs when transplanting, and it is probably useful for treating orchids that are suffering from root loss or sickness in general. It can be applied to larger plants as

a spray but we either dipped our orchid seedlings in a solution of Envy® for a few minutes or sprayed them after planting them in compots. The solution may be used repeatedly on the same day but it should then be discarded.

Other claims for Envy® are that it assists plants to withstand low winter temperatures, provides frost protection and minimises infection by diseases. It now occurs to me that it may be beneficial for treating divisions of coelogynes and other orchids that generally respond poorly to division.

Brian Milligan,
North Balwyn, Vic

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web site. <http://au.geocities.com/gosfordorchidsociety/>

For more information, contact: The Gosford & District Orchid Society

(02) 43 681585; 0418 457 465 OR (02) 43 751199

AOR 006

Phalaenopsis Culture

by Ray Clement

Phalaenopsis are a group of monopodial orchids that grow in shady, humid conditions throughout the Asian tropics and extend into northern Australia. They are arguably the most popular group of orchids grown in the world today, being particularly popular throughout the United States and Europe where they are regarded as one of the easiest orchids to grow indoors. They are also one of the most popular flowers for bridal bouquets.

Temperature and Atmospheric Requirements

Phalaenopsis enjoy relatively stable temperatures. A minimum temperature of 15 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 30 degrees is optimal, however plants will tolerate temps of up to 5 degrees more extreme than this for short periods. Growing these plants in temperate climates will require some artificial heating in the winter and cooling in the summer. However their requirements fall almost perfectly within the comfort zone we enjoy inside the house. *Phalaenopsis* also require medium to high humidity. This can be achieved by placing the plants in a saucer of gravel, wet the gravel but be sure the base of the pot is above the water level. As the water evaporates, adequate humidity will be provided. Alternatively, mist the plants daily.

Light

Phalaenopsis enjoy lower light than most orchids and must be protected from direct, unfiltered sunlight. Outdoors sufficient shade so that on a sunny day a barely discernable shadow is cast is ideal. Indoors a brightly lit room out of direct sun is suitable.

Watering and Fertilising

One of the secrets of growing "Phallies" is to keep the roots just damp but the leaves as dry as possible. This means that the compost should be allowed to nearly dry out before watering. After watering, dry the leaves off as quickly as possible, especially any water laying in the crown of the plant where the leaves join. To help this avoid watering the leaves, or place the plants in a breezy spot for an hour or two after watering, even removing excess water from the leaves with a tissue will serve the purpose. Fertilise with a recommended soluble orchid fertiliser at quarter strength every watering or at half strength every second watering. HSO 12 is ideal for all year round use.

Potting, Pests and Diseases

Keep plants in as small a pot as possible, a few roots growing out of the pot will not harm the plant and is not necessarily a reason to pot up the plant. Apart from crown rot, which can be avoided by careful watering, *Phalaenopsis* can suffer attack from Mealy Bugs. These appear as small furry white pests, usually under the leaves. They can be sprayed with Pyrethrum or a chemical insecticide such as Diazinon or Confidor, or alternatively wet them with equal parts of Methylated Spirits and water using a cotton bud or small cloth.

Phalaenopsis are very rewarding plants to grow and flowers last up to 12 weeks. When flowers have withered, cut the flower stem off between the third and fourth notch from the plant. The old stem will then shoot and flower a second time. Mature plants will flower twice each year so flowering can be achieved for up to half the year. Flowers are available in white, pink or yellow or with variations of spotting or veining on these backgrounds. ■

Ray Clement,
Tinonee Orchids

Email: clement@tpg.com.au



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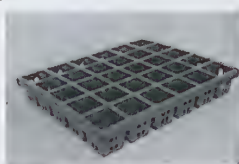
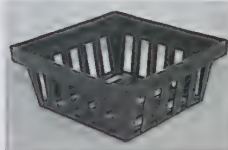


Shallow Pots

Specially designed Xtra shallow pots including the widest pot offered for orchids (350mm). These pots are just 50mm deep, have excellent drainage and are predrilled for hanging. Also available in 260mm width.

Baskets

Four selected size vanda pots including 70mm, 80mm, 150mm and the giant 200mm pot provide a range of square vented pots suited for many orchid species from Draculas to Vandas. Suitable for hanging or benching.

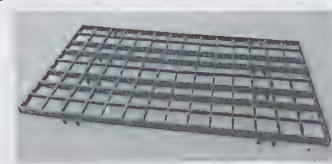
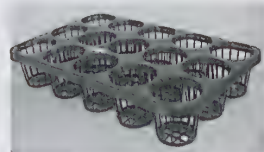


50mm Individual Tube Tray

First time in Australia. Forget the problems of fallen tubes forever. These purpose designed heavy weight trays hold 30 tubes in individually numbered holes whilst maintaining the best ventilation integrity. Best seller overseas.

Pot Trays

Pot Trays A range of three desirable sizes designed to hold orchid pots from small 70 - 110(15 hole), medium 90 - 110 mm(12 hole) and large 120 - 160mm(6 hole). Keep your stock neat and tidy. No more fallen plants on meeting nights.



Easy Benching

New innovation. Light, strong and UV resistant this benching requires no welding and may be installed by anyone. Size 640mm x 365mm. Many configurations possible. No rust!!

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE INQUIRIES WELCOME

Orchids 2005 Expo

The 5th New Zealand International Orchid Expo is now less than four months away, and registrations are rolling in. If you were planning to come then it is still not too late to get your registration in.

The programme for ORCHIDS 2005 EXPO includes:

Participation in Judging the Orchid Show, the Judging Lunch and Review

Attendance at Lectures by guest speakers from Australia, Japan, and locally on subjects covering all the major genera

Breakfast meetings hosted by the Specialist Genera Groups

Social Events include the Opening night preview party, a River cruise by paddle boat, and the Saturday night Dinner and trophy presentation with after dinner guest speaker David Banks.

The event will again feature participation by kindred organisations featuring:

Horticultural show Display, Daffodil Show, displays of Bromeliads, Clivias, Camellias, Floral Art, Cake Decorating Competition, plus Floral Paintings and Photographs by NZ Artists, Craft Sales, and Orchid Plant Sales (most NZ Orchid nurseries represented) also Orchid repotting demonstrations at specified times,



Garden Products and Sales, Lectures on Gardening subjects, Vendor sales.

Registration:

Note that there are only four options:

- A 5 Day Registration for a Single Registrant NZ\$90
 - B 5 Day Registration with a Companion Registrant NZ\$125
 - C Weekend Registration for a Single Registrant NZ\$65
 - D Judges 2 Day Registration NZ\$25
- Satchels and Conference Mementos are included in all the Registration options

except that of the Judges 2 Day option, however only one satchel is supplied with the 5 day companion registration option.

The Satchels have been specially produced for ORCHIDS 2005 EXPO with an orchid hand painted on one side. A choice from five options of orchid flower is available. Extra satchels may be ordered.

Please contact the Publicity convenor (as per below) for an emailed copy of the Registration Handbook.

Programme Highlights:

Mon – Tues 29 – 30th Aug

Mounting of displays

Wednesday 31st

Judging commences at 8am, plus Judges Lunch

Expo Opening Welcome Party and Registrants Show Preview at 6pm in the evening

Thursday 1st Sept

Breakfast (optional) followed by the Judging Review

Thurs – Sun 1 – 4th

Open to Public Thurs – Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 10am – 5pm

Thursday 1st

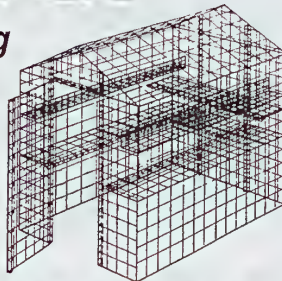
Waikato River Cruise – Waipa Delta Paddle Boat, 6pm

Orchid Grower

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AOR 171

Friday 2nd

Odontoglossum Alliance Breakfast Meeting

Sat – Sun 3 – 4th

Lectures – morning and afternoons
9am to 4pm

Saturday 3rd

Masdevallia Breakfast Meeting

EXPO Trophy Presentation at 7pm
and **Dinner** at 8pm

Sunday 4th

**Cymbidium Society of America
Breakfast Meeting**

Dismantle after Expo closure 5pm Sun
Each day 9-10am is reserved for **Registrants Photography** sessions.

All three special interest group Breakfast meetings are open to all Registrants to attend.

Lectures:

These are being held on both Saturday and Sunday from 9am to Noon & 1pm to 4pm

A mix of International and Local Speakers will present Lectures, the content of which will be unique to the Expo.

Saturdays programme includes;

Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids,
Melbourne (Odontoglossum Alliance novelty)

John Robertson from Australia
(*Phalaenopsis*)

Harry Nagata from Japan (*Cattleya* growing in Japan)

Fanie Venter ex South Africa (Sth African ecology)

Michael Harrison from Australia, member ANOS (Australian Species) Barry Fraser of New Zealand (*Paphiopedilums* breeding and growing)

Sundays programme includes;

Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids,
Australia (Hybrids of Australian *Dendrobium* and *Sarcochilus*)

Russell Hutton of L & R Orchids, New Zealand (Species)

Ross Tucker of Tucker Nurseries, New Zealand (*Cymbidium* hybridising)

Plus a forum of the above speakers for a question & answer session.

Event Management:

Convenor – Margaret Liddell RD1
Morrinsville New Zealand
Ph 64+7+8896149

Mob 64+21+1307308

Email – margaret.liddell@actrix.co.nz

Secretary – Elsie Budge c/- Orchids
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Email – elsieb@ihug.co.nz

Publicity – Ray Albiston 101 Cambridge Rd Hamilton
Ph 64+7+8561116
FAX 64+7+8568730
Email – ray.albiston@extra.co.nz

NEW PRODUCTS

Plastic Saucers, Trays and Easy Benching

One of Australia's entrepreneurial nursery traders "Easy Orchids" has recently imported a new range of plasticware designed to be of use to growers of orchids, cacti & succulents and bonsai plants. This range is very competitively priced and of a very high quality. Included are saucers in two convenient sizes, one of which is extra large at 350mm wide. They have many applications for orchids, but would be especially good for native orchids, bulbophyllums etc that are now specimen plants. They are presented pre-drilled to give the option of benching or hanging. Square plastic baskets have been previously only available in limited sizes and at higher prices. Now the range available extends from 70mm for small draculas, stanho-peas etc right through to 200mm for large vandas etc. Pricing is attractive and they are also pre-drilled for wire hangers.

Perhaps the most usable of all is the new 50mm tube tray. Every orchid grower I know has trouble with tubestock falling over and the roots being disturbed whilst still establishing. These trays, with 30 square holes just the right size for 50mm round tubes control this forever. They have good ventilation and are very strongly built. They are already very popular overseas and will be of great benefit to all in Australia. In addition to the 50mm tray

there are 3 other sizes of trays. The next size up has 15 holes & is designed for 70mm & 80mm pots, and then there is the 12-hole tray for 90, 100 & 110mm pots & finally the 6-hole tray for 120mm through to 160mm pots. These products may be used to carry plants to a meeting without them falling over and offer themselves as a management tool to keep your plants well spaced & safe from falling in your bush house.

The last item included is being marketed as "Easy Benching". These 640mm x 365mm plastic bench pieces are light, strong, ultra-violet stable & able to be installed as benching without welding. They have a moulded clip underneath that neatly fits 15mm pipe to hold them in place. We understand the pricing is well less than steel as well. Of course, their advantages include no rust, lighter construction, great strength as well. Easy Orchids proprietor, Murray Shergold, tells the AOR that he has established distributors in many areas of Australia already and the take-up of these products has been quite phenomenal in the first few weeks. We congratulate Easy Orchids for their innovation and feel confident these products will serve many orchid growers well in the years to come. Pictures of these products are shown in the advertisement on page 29.

North Brisbane Orchid Society Annual Spring Show

The North Brisbane Orchid Society Inc. will stage its 2005 Annual Spring Orchid Show in the Auditorium at Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August 2005. This is an Open Show and is open to all members of an approved Orchid Society with set up prior to 7:30pm on Friday 26th August. This years show once again should provide a spectacular display of both Australian and Exotic Orchids as well as ferns, bromeliads and foliage plants. The show will also feature Floral Arts Displays. A diverse range of orchid plants from seedlings to flowering plants as well as floral arrangements will be for sale. There will be daily raffles and weekend raffle. Refreshments will be available during the show. Potting demonstrations will be conducted throughout the weekend and the experts will be present to give advice

on general culture. The opening hours for the show will be from 8:30am to 4:00pm on Saturday and from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Sunday. Presentation of trophies and prizes will be conducted at the conclusion of the Show on Sunday. For further information contact Show Secretary, David Board, phone: 07 3353 4851

Devonport Orchid Society State Conference and Show

The Devonport Orchid Society will be hosting the Tasmanian State Orchid Conference in 2005 incorporating our Annual Show. The Show will be held at The Maidstone Park Memorial Hall, Spreyton, commencing on the 30th of September to the 2nd of October. The theme for the Show this year will be "Mountains to the Coast". Tasmania boasts the best display of cool growing genera in Australia, along with Exotics. A cocktail party will be held on the Friday

night, with registrants being able to look at, and discuss the culture of plants on display.

The main guest speaker will be Mr. Ron Parsons from America, speaking on Masdevallias and Draculas. Ron is an avid orchid photographer with over 25,000 slides. He has given many talks on Orchid Culture both nationally and internationally, and will certainly be an asset to our show.

The weekend will consist of a three day Show, with workshops covering most cool growing genera, potting demonstrations, plant/ potting mix and orchid posy sales. Meals will be available at the venue. There will also be a bus trip to 'Orchids 'n More' owned and operated by Peter and Helen Jackson.

We envisage the weekend will be a little

different to most conferences, with the emphasis being on demonstrations and activities. We extend an invitation to everybody to attend.

Why not come for a holiday and see Tasmania at the same time. Devonport is the port for the Spirit of Tasmania and there is also an airport nearby.

Registration information is available from The Secretary at daveros@bigpond.com.au or P.O.Box 805, Devonport 7310 Tasmania. Phone 03 6425 3216.

Nambour Orchid Society Celebrates 50th Year

This year marks a very important milestone in the history of the Nambour

Orchid Society. The Society was founded in 1955 and has met continually since and held shows during the last 50 years. The amount of pleasure given to people who love orchids and flowers has been immeasurable over this time, and to celebrate our Golden Jubilee year a special 3 day show with the theme of "50 Golden Years" will be held on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of September. A special attraction will be an expanded Australian native display and as an added interest fern and bromeliad nurseries have been invited to display and sell. The Society is keen to contact past members as we wish to invite them to a special viewing of the show with light refreshments on Friday evening 2nd September. Memorabilia of past years will also be on display. Societies are welcome to book a bus trip to visit this show. The venue of the Uniting Church Hall in Donaldson Road, has easy access and morning and afternoon teas and a lunchtime sausage sizzle will be available. For further information please contact Beryl Robertson on 07 5442 1288 or Alison Parkes on 07 5441 7201.

Queensland Orchid Society Spring Show The Orchid Show of The Year

In Brisbane on the 19th to 21st August, 2005 (Friday to Sunday) the Queensland Orchid Society Inc. are staging what we confidently expect will be judged The Orchid Show of The Year. This will be at the Botanic Gardens Auditorium off Mt. Coot-tha Road, Toowong, from 9am till 4pm each day. Admission: Adults \$3. Children under 16 free.

Exotic Orchid Species from around the world will compete with modern hybrids for the attention of the viewing public.

Our Plant Sales Officers can offer valuable advice on growing conditions for people wishing to start this most rewarding hobby, or assist those wishing to enlarge their collections. All plants for sale are well established, and are competitively priced.

Floral arrangements are offered for sale, and refreshments are also available.

We also cater for the needs of bus loads of enthusiastic orchid growers from other societies. We have known instances where one distant society will encourage members of other societies along the route to join their bus as it travels towards Mt. Coot-tha. (Bus drivers - please refer to Brisbane Refidex UBD map 158 L13 & 14)

For further details, please contact the Q.O.S. Secretary, Maree Illingworth, phone/fax 07 3800 3213

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

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The publishers of the "Australian Orchid Review" are pleased to offer their readers popular Orchid books at special discount prices.

New titles will be added to the list when available.

All you have to do is select the book(s) required and fill in the details on the form provided.

COOL FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

Ross Macdonald is a highly respected orchid grower and photographer from the North Island of New Zealand. This volume is devoted to cool growing orchid genera, which are easy to cultivate in New Zealand and southern Australia. Growers in tropical areas should not be discouraged, as many of these orchids are indeed adaptable and will grow in a range of climates. Andy Easton has written the foreword. Ross has devoted the first few pages of the book to cultural hints, which are down to earth and give practical information on the basics of orchid cultivation.

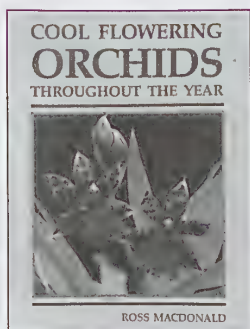
Basically this is a pictorial book with over 300 full colour photographs, covering a similar number of orchid species and hybrids. The quality of both the photographs and the colour reproduction is impressive. All of the orchids have been captured using available sunlight and there is no flash photography. There is a wide range of orchid genera covered with particular emphasis placed on cymbidiums, dendrobiums, laelias, masdevallias, the Odontoglossum alliance and Paphiopedilum.

The photographs are arranged in four chapters, referring on their main blooming season. The use of seasons ensures the text is also applicable to growers in the northern hemisphere.

This inexpensive book is exceptional value and importantly is written by someone who knows and grows these orchids. I thoroughly recommend this book to orchid growers, as it will be of great value to both novice and experienced enthusiasts.

144 pp. 242mm x 168mm
Softcover.

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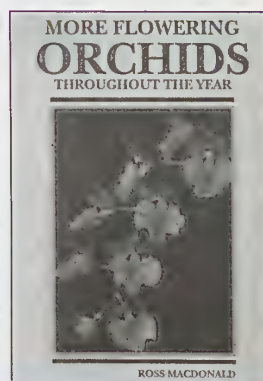


MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some genera that would require artificial heating in cooler climates. This volume covers a further 314 orchid species and hybrids with 344 colour plates. Both texts are highly recommend to all orchid fanciers; particularly newcomers who wish to see an array of delightful flowers that they could grow.

132 pp.
242mm x 168mm
Softcover.



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WHAT ORCHID IS THAT?

Edited by Alec Pridgeon

The orchid is one of the most passionately cultivated flowers world-wide, and for centuries it has been a symbol for the exotic and mysterious in the human imagination. As the brilliant photographs in this book show, the shapes, hues and textures of many of these extraordinary flowers continue to produce a shock of wonder in the viewer.

This book will delight everyone, from the gardener with a casual interest in orchids, to the confirmed enthusiast. It takes in a wide spectrum of orchid genera and more than 1100 species common in cultivation, presented by an international team of experts.

The first section, by the General Editor, Alec Pridgeon, introduces orchid habitat, distribution, names and classification, hybrids, pollination, how to grow orchids and control pests and diseases, and orchid conservation.

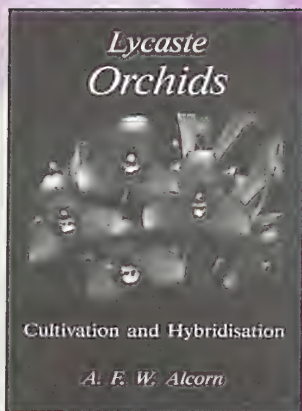
The alphabetical section, "Orchids A-Z", includes descriptions, names and synonyms, geographic distribution, notes on culture, and photographs drawn from collections around the world, showing the best-known species in cultivation.

Whether you are buying, growing or just looking, this is the ultimate guide to orchids. 304 pages, colour.



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LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation

A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program.

Michael Hallett, a friend of Fred Alcorn

for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages, colour and B&W.

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SARCOCHILUS ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA

Walter T. Upton

Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia is the first book to cover all aspects of species of the genus Sarcochilus. Compact plants of great floral beauty with ease of culture, they are mostly cool to cold growing, requiring limited space, and for these reasons are quickly becoming the orchid of the future.

The book gives each individual species a separate entry, with information on its history, synonyms, distribution, habitat, cultivation and hybrids, along with a drawing showing the main parts of the plant and flower, plus a colour plate providing an easy means of identification.

Hybridising, including intergenerics, is dealt with in detail - most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

This is Walter T. Upton's third book and is a companion to his very popular and informative Dendrobium Orchids of Australia.

119 pages, colour
and B&W.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photograph illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid

names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages, colour and B&W.

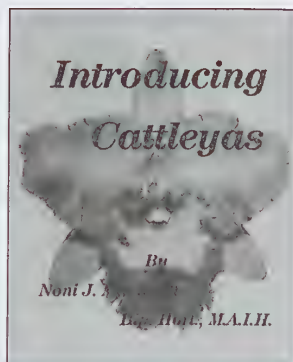
OUR DISCOUNT PRICE \$A11.80
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INTRODUCING CATTLEYAS

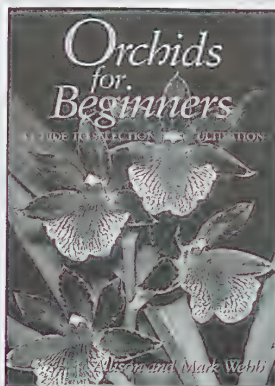
Noni J. Mammatt

Noni Mammatt's fascination with the Cattleya Alliance, their most beautiful blooms and extensive range of colour combinations, has prompted Noni to share the results of her own trials in successfully growing and flowering all types of this most beautiful genus under shade-house conditions in the city of Perth in Western Australia. She hopes that as a result of her writing some new growers, as well as the experienced growers of other orchid genera, may be encouraged to introduce the Cattleya Alliance into their collections.

24 pages, B&W.



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ORCHIDS FOR BEGINNERS

A Guide to Selection
and Cultivation
Allison and Mark Webb

"Orchids for Beginners" is for those just starting out in orchids. It provides information about choosing orchids best suited to your conditions and how to grow them. There is advice on what to look for when choosing plants to avoid some common traps and the expense of losing plants unsuited to your conditions. The essential basics of cultivation for beginners are covered - potting media, mounting plants, repotting and deflasking as well as choosing locations and building bushhouses.

There are suggestions for growing in country areas as well as indoors. The plant descriptions offer suggestions of plants to choose from as well as introducing some of the very varied forms of orchids.

48 pages, colour and B&W.

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2. More Flowering Orchids Throughout the Year	A R		A\$20.00+ (Incl. GST)	A\$5.00	=A\$25.00 = US\$15.80		
3. What Orchid Is That?	A R	= A\$54.95 (Incl. GST)	A\$43.95+ (Incl. GST)	A\$14.40	=A\$58.35 = US\$41.00		
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Western Australia Orchid Spectacular September 2005

The Conference program for this major event is now complete.

Conference Program

Tuesday 13th September 2005

8 am – 5 pm – **Set up**
8 am-5 pm Entering orchids for judging

Wednesday 14th September 2005

8 am – Judges Breakfast
9 am – Judging
Official Opening.
Hosts...**The Garden Gurus**
Cocktail Party from 7-9 pm
(Registrants only)
Fashion Parade

Thursday 15th September 2005

8 am – 9 pm Open for Registrants
9 am – 9 pm Open to the Public
Education Workshops for the General Public (In main Show Hall)
11 am Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)
2 pm Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)
Lectures (Registrants Only) In the Lecture Room Ground Floor
Moderator **Tony Budrovich**
6 – 6.45 pm **David Banks** – Variation in Dendrobiums.
7 – 7.45 pm **Norito Hasagawa** USA – Current trends in Paphiopedilum Breeding
8 – 8.45 pm **Ron Parsons** USA – Oncidium Alliance Species
9 pm Close Venue

Friday 16th September

Open for Registrants 8 am – 9 pm
Show Open to the Public 9 am – 9 pm
Education Workshops for the General Public (In main Show Hall)
11 am Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)
2 pm Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)
Lectures (Registrants Only) In the Lecture Room Ground Floor
Moderator **Frank Vernon**
6 pm – 6.45 pm **Kevin Western**. South Australia – Aust. Native Terrestrials – Flasking & Deflasking
7 pm – 7.45 pm **Dr. Andrew Batty** Western Australia – Conservation and Propagation of WA Terrestrial Orchids

8 pm- 8.45 pm **Ray Clement** NSW – Australian Native Epiphytes
9 pm Close Venue

Saturday 17th September

8 am-5 pm Open for Registrants
9 am-5 pm Open to the Public
8.30 am – 4 pm Orchids Day Tour
Leaving from venue entrance
Education Workshops General Public (In Function Centre)
11 am Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)
12 noon Fashion Parade
1 pm **The Garden Gurus**
2 pm Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)
Lectures (Registrants Only) In the Lecture Room Ground Floor
Moderator – **Roy Brown**
9 – 9.45 am **John Robertson** Queensland – *Phalaenopsis* Culture
10 – 10.45 am **Stephen Monkhouse** Bali – Adelaide Orchids goes to Bali + the latest breeding trends in Zygopetalums
11 – 12 Noon **Terry Poulton** Victoria – Cymbidiums
Lunch break 12 – 12.45 pm
Moderator – **Kay Baylis**
12.45 – 1.30 pm **Doug Matters** Queensland – Phragmipediums & their Culture
1.45 – 2.30 pm **Ross Maidment** Queensland – Current Trends in Cattleya Breeding
2.45 – 3.30 pm **Ming-Kuo, Wu** Taiwan – *Phalaenopsis* Breeding in Taiwan
3.45 – 4.30 pm **Kevin Hipkins** NSW – Odontoglossum Culture & Breeding
5 pm Close Venue

Conference Dinner Dance & Presentations

7 pm-1 am **Dinner/Dance** (in the Terminal Room across the Lob

Sunday 18th September

8 am-5 pm Open for Registrants
9 am-5 pm Open to the Public
Education Workshops General Public (In main Show Hall)
11 am Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)
12 noon Fashion Parade
1 pm **The Garden Gurus**
2 pm Orchid Culture (Speaker to be Notified)

Lectures (Registrants Only) In the Lecture Room Ground Floor
Moderator **Ken Jones**
9. – 9.45am **Ron Parsons** California USA – Rare Orchid Species
10. – 10.45am **Geoff Stocker** Queensland – Papua New Guinea Species
11.- 12 Noon **Dennis Kao** Taiwan – Paphs in Taiwan
Lunch break 12 – 12.45 pm
Moderator **Ken Jones**
12.45 – 1.30pm **Michelle Andriamanamihaja**, Madagascar – Madagascar Orchid Species
1.45 – 2.30pm **Ray Clement** NSW Growing Tropicals in a Cool Climate
2.45 – 3.30pm **Gary Backhouse** Victoria, – Orchids and Other Gems of Costa Rica
3.45 – 4.30pm **George Hampel** Thailand, – New Vietnamese & Chinese Paphiopedilums
5 pm Close Venue

Monday 19th September

Inspection of Orchids for Interstate by WAQIS (free of charge)
Dismantle, – From 8am

The organisers have also put together a couple of Orchid Tours in conjunction with the WA Orchid Spectacular & Conference in Fremantle in September. The itineraries for the Orchid Tours are being arranged by Andrew Brown who is the co-author of *Orchids of South-West Australia* and *Western Australia's Threatened Flora*, and Andrew has also agreed to be our Tour Guide on both Tours. The full details are below.

WA Orchid Spectacular Tour Information

These Orchid Tours are being organised by the WAOS Committee. Information regarding other tours will be disseminated as they are arranged, which should be within a few weeks.

1. Full Day Orchid Tour of Perth environs and Kings Park.

Saturday 17th September 2005. Lunch included.

Tour leader is Andrew Brown co-author of *Orchids of South-West Australia* and *Western Australia's Threatened Flora*.

The all day tour taking in Kings Park with a visit to their Propagation Laboratories, and then to see WA Native Orchids growing in situ at various locations around the Perth metro area.

Please note; the itinerary has been developed so that we can view a range of habitats and orchid species. It is likely that we will visit most locations, depending on climatic and other factors, orchids do not flower as well in the same locations every year and, if this is the case this year, alternative locations will be selected prior to the day.

Tour costs; \$45 per person

Places are limited. If you wish to book this tour, could you get back to me as quickly as possible please. emntee@iinet.net.au Phone (08) 9342 3799 or snail mail to 14 Henniker Way, Koondoola, Western Australia 6064

2. Four Day Orchid Tour of the Southwest.

Tour starts Tuesday 20th September (the day **after** the Conference is pulled down) and returns to Fremantle on the evening of the 23rd. includes all meals and accommodation

Tour leader is Andrew Brown co-author of *Orchids of South-West Australia* and *Western Australia's Threatened Flora*.

The post Conference Orchid Tour has been designed to introduce you to the unique and diverse orchid flora of south-west western Australia. Some 60-100 species will be seen over 4 days in a range of habitats and geographical regions in both high and low rainfall areas.

Leaving Fremantle on the 20th Sept 05. Return 23rd Sept.

20th Sept. -Drive south observing orchids along the way and overnight at the Margaret River area + Wineries. O/night @ Grange on Farrelley.

21st. View orchids at Margaret River area and then cross to Manjimup via Nannup stopping along the way to view orchids. Overnight @ Kingsley Motel Manjimup

22nd. To Albany area viewing orchids along the way + wineries. O/night @ Amity Albany

23rd. Orchids in the Albany area, then return along the Albany H/W to Fremantle stopping for orchids along the way.

Tour costs per person; Twin Share \$450 Single supplement \$132

Places are limited. If you wish to book this tour, could you get back to me as quickly as possible. emntee@iinet.net.au Phone (08) 9342 3799 or 14 Henniker Way, Koondoola, Western Australia 6064

Tony Watkinson

Email: emntee@iinet.net.au

Le genre Paphiopedilum: Taxonomie, repartition, habitat, hybridation et culture

by William Cavestro

336 pp. 240mm x 160mm Softcover.

Published by Rhone-Alpes Orchidees, Lyon, France

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38340 Voreppe, France

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williamcavestro@upmf-grenoble.fr

ISBN 2-9508593-2-1

(Also stocked in Australia by Orchidaceous Books)

This book, written purely in French, is one of the latest revisions of the Genus *Paphiopedilum* including new keys and the presenting several newly discovered and described species such as *P. hangianum*, *P. intaniae*, *P. sugiyamanum*, *P. vietnamense* and *P. parnatatum*. In all, Cavestro's interpretations of 75 species are treated, as well as numerous forms, varieties and subspecies. The well-known and respected Harold Koopowitz from California wrote the Preface.

Each species is covered within its relative Section, and is arranged with the name, author and publication details (in English), followed by any synonyms and varieties, again in English. Following notes cover a full botanical description (whilst in French is readily translated), distribution, interesting notes on the taxon as well as cultural suggestions.

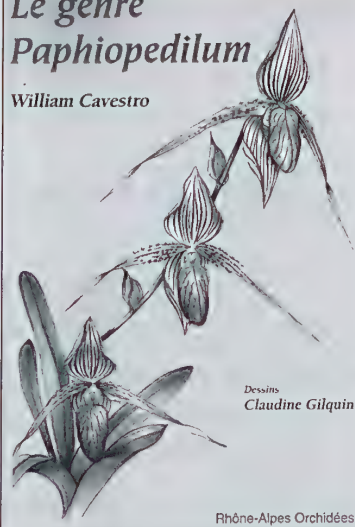
Obviously all of the colour reproductions and black and white line drawings are in "English"!

There are 132 quality photographs showing variations within the species (as well as four hybrid shots). Numerous albino forms are depicted, as well as many "award quality" clones. These illustrations are located as a block in the middle of the book, obviously to keep production costs down. I am happy with the vast majority of determinations, however a couple of (what I believe to be) mis-identifications have slipped past the proofreaders. The illustration of the rare southern Indian *P. druryi* (34), shows what is a hybrid between that species and *P. exul*. Whilst the image of *P. villosum* var. *annamense* (123) has a "hybrid look" to it. However, to only trip up on two examples is not a bad effort.

Claudine Gilquin has done a fine job with the 70 line renditions covering most of the species. These are not elaborate, but most effective, as one with a fair knowledge of the Asiatic slipper orchid species would readily identify the subject. These appear adjacent to the taxon being discussed.

Le genre Paphiopedilum

William Cavestro



This is a very nice book, and the purchase price alone is worth the joy and knowledge gained from the colour plates. Unfortunately, for obvious reasons, I cannot comment on the introductory chapters, so I could also understand the author's species concept. In fact, I'm sure an English translation would sell well, and hope it eventuates.

Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia

Edited by M.J. Fraser, J. Wright, W. Ferris & B. Wallace

128 pp. 250mm x 176mm Softcover.

Published by the Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.

GPO Box 612, Canberra ACT 2601

www.geocities.com/orcsoc

email: orcsoc@geocities.com

ISBN 0-646-44594-4 AUD\$25.00

(Also stocked by Orchidaceous Books, www.orchidaceousbooks.com.au)

I didn't even know that this book was in the pipeline, then out of the blue I am handed a copy to review at the recent Sydney International Orchid Fair held at Castle Hill. I had a quick flick through it then and there, and was most impressed with the feel, look and most importantly the practical information that covers a plethora of orchid genera and basic orchid culture. Having subsequent time for a more thorough look, I continue to be impressed with this down to earth guide that has been compiled and written by members of the Orchid Society of Canberra. I am still amazed how they could produce such high quality at such a reasonable price.

Canberra has quite an extreme climate, with severe cold and frosts in winter (even

the odd snowfall), whilst the scorching heat, strong winds and low humidity were highlighted a couple of years ago by those devastating bushfires that lashed Canberra and surrounding suburbs. Most orchids dislike these conditions, and cannot be successfully grown out of doors for the whole twelve months. In such and similar climates, the orchids are more at home in enclosed and environmentally controlled structures.

That's where this book comes in. It is a must for orchid growers, especially those in regional areas, away from the coast. There is heaps of information within the numerous (over 30) chapters that cover: What are Orchids?, Orchids and a Cool Climate, Structures, Glasshouse Arrangement, Repotting, Mounting and Propagation of Orchids, Pots, Growing Media and Fertiliser, Pests and Diseases, plus specific growing notes on about twenty genera. As a bonus, there are over 120 colour photographs spread throughout the book.

There are only three niggly complaints that I have with the photographic captions. *Cymbidium Jubilation* 'Geronimo' (pg. 58) shows a green standard "cymbid" with a distinctly marked labellum, looking a lot like a *Cym. Valley Zenith*. The species depicted as *Paphiopedilum leucochilum* (pg. 81) is actually the related *Paph. concolor*. Whilst the plant illustrated as *Doritis pulcherrima* var. *buyssoniana* (pg. 89) is clearly a hybrid, probably also involving *Phalaenopsis equestris* in its parentage. And on page 107 the primary hybrid *Dendrobium Adastra* is shown incorrectly as two words ("Ad Astra").

The Editors have tried to keep abreast of the latest taxonomy, using the very latest names, which in most cases are yet to gain widespread acceptance in either botanical or horticultural circles. Personally, as this book is primarily cultural based, I don't think this approach works well due to inconsistencies and examples that will clearly confuse the budding novice. For

example, the Eastern Australian dendrobiums such as *D. kingianum* and *D. speciosum* are discussed under the generic name *Thelychiton*, similarly *D. tetragonum* var.

GROWING ORCHIDS IN COOL CLIMATE AUSTRALIA



EDITORS:
M.J. FRASER, J. WRIGHT, W. FERRIS & B. WALLACE

giganteum is listed as (again quite correctly) as *Tetrabaculum capitatum*. This approach is botanically quite acceptable. However, it comes a bit undone and very confounding when, as in the example of *Dendrobium* Ellen (photo and caption on page 52) it then lists the parentage as *Thelychiton kingianus* and *Tetrabaculum tetragonum*. Examples such as this with undoubtedly lead to much puzzlement and angst. I really think that time will show that two sets of "names" will be used for a long period, one for the botanical community (for species) and one for the horticultural community (for hybrids).

A similar situation arises in the text with the "*Rupicolous Sophronitis*" (well known within the genus *Laelia*). This is a concept that has since been largely abandoned. However, this is only a minor glitch, as the information contained is most useful.

I highly recommend this book to novice and experienced enthusiasts throughout the whole of Australia, and our orchid growing friends in New Zealand, North America, South Africa and Europe. ■

Tissue Culture Course in Melbourne

Growing plants in tissue culture is a technique fast gaining popularity in Australia. To meet the increasing demand for knowledge and skills about this technique, Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT) offers a 70-hour course in Plant Tissue Culture that runs one night a week for 3.5 hours at NMIT's Fairfield campus.

The course covers all aspects of micro-propagation techniques for producing high health native and exotic, rare and endangered plants. The skills and knowledge are especially useful for plant propagators and breeders, laboratory technicians, horticulturalists, botanists, nursery and allied trade workers.

NMIT has a sophisticated Plant Tissue Culture laboratory at the campus for practical, hands-on tuition where students learn to directly apply the theory of their classroom studies. There's a media preparation room, transfer room for placing the plants into culture and an incubation room where the plant cultures grow.

Teacher Siew Teoh said the course involved the technique of taking a small part of a plant – a bud, portion of the stem or a leaf, for example – cleaning it of all bacteria and fungi and then placing it into a sterile, nutrient culture

medium where it would grow at a very fast rate.

'It is about mass propagation which is very rapid compared to traditional, conventional methods of propagation,' Siew said. 'It is also very time effective as you don't have to weed, water or spray with pesticides. You can also propagate all year round and it's a good import or export business.' She added it was an exceptionally good technique for breeding rare, exotic and unusual plants. 'There is greater control of all the variables like climate and one of the great advantages of it is you can do it in a converted garage or spare room in your home.'

The course offers a mix of theory and practice with topics covered including the history and principles of Plant Tissue Culture, sources of contamination, surface sterilisation of different plant materials and introduction into the culture process as well as transfer and sub-culturing of explants into multiplication and rooting media and deflasking of plantlets.

Inquiries about the course to NMIT: Ph: (03) 9269-8830 or for further information: Paulyne Pogorelske NMIT Media Officer Ph: (03) 9269-1253, or email: PaulyneP-PR@nmit.vic.edu.au ■

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AOB 203

In Memoriam: Ray Dix

by Chris Hubbert

With great sadness, we record the death of Ray Dix, on 8 December 2004, aged 71, after a long battle with cancer. Ray was a most notable figure in orchid-growing and orchid-breeding circles, and his influence and renown were widespread.

Ray acquired his first orchid in 1975, joined an orchid society in 1978, and soon after "graduated" to cymbidiums, especially standard cymbidiums. He early became involved in shows, and soon, perhaps arising from a competitive instinct within him, his interest was piqued to learn how and why one orchid was considered better than another, so he got involved in judging; the training developed a knowledge of hybrids, and from this grew an interest in breeding. Wildcatt records 34 cymbidium hybrids registered by Ray Dix, 22 of them being his own crosses. The first of Ray's own crosses to be registered was *Cym. Heilan Jessie* (Bonanza x Peter Dawson; 1995), and there's a little story about that name. Ray Dix and his brother-in-law Joe Vance, in Glasgow for the 1993 World Orchid Conference, happened one day to find themselves outside a certain pub. Almost instantaneously it struck both men that the pub's name might be good for an orchid hybrid. From that moment – there was always some good-natured rivalry and competition between them – an undeclared race was on, which Ray won!

Ray described himself as "rather fond of red". He admitted that was an understatement! He frequently turned up at orchid events wearing a trademark red shirt, and red socks. His business card was red; his car was red, and its numberplate was RED-CYM; and his email address was "red-cyms".

The colour red, he said, is the colour of passion, and combined with a love of cymbidiums, it was only natural that he became passionate about red cymbidiums, and made it his mission to make the best. When he set out on this mission the quality of red cymbidiums did not come up to most other colours, in form or size or colour. There was considerable scope for improvement, and he worked on it assiduously.

One of the last occasions when I saw Ray was at the Howick Orchid Society show in Spring 2004. The show judging was finished, and after walking me around the hall and discussing a number of the exhibits, we were sitting down having a coffee. Ray mused about what time the show was to close, and said "Well, I can't sit around here waiting for the show to close. I'm going home, I've got pollinations to make!" Which he did. Who knows

what Grand Champions might be lurking within the pods resulting from the pollinations he made that day?

Ray's most famous hybrid was undoubtedly *Cym. Hot Port* (Hot Prime 'Conference' x Yowie Flame 'Port Wine'), registered in 1996. In Ray's own words:

"When discussing breeding possibilities for Hot Prime 'Conference' at the Auckland World Orchid Conference [1990] with Alan Gray, I was most interested in a richly coloured cymbidium in his display called Yowie Flame 'Port Wine' 4n. It was converted from the diploid form by Gray and Reid and is absolutely stunning in intense depth of colour, although form is a little open. Both Alan Gray and Ian Reid suggested that Yowie Flame 'Purple Haze' was a better proposition as a parent particularly to improve the deficient lip of Hot Prime 'Conference' but I was too much taken by the colour of 'Port Wine' so they gave me pollen to use. Using this on Hot Prime 'Conference' produced the hybrid which I have registered as Hot Port. I have not been disappointed with the cross which has produced a colour range from pink through to deep red. All have a slight blue tone, which is quite difficult to reproduce on film. . .

"Very few of the Hot Ports have suffered with overly small lips so 'Port Wine' has done the job over 'Conference' and the fears of Alan Gray have been unfounded. Certainly 'Port Wine' has given an outstanding boost to the red colour in standard cymbidiums. Of all the crosses made with Hot Prime 'Conference' the Hot Ports flower earliest, usually during the months of July and August."

In July 2004 I visited Ray's orchid house for the first (and only) time – it was truly a privilege to see along the whole of one side of the house an entire bench of flowering red cymbidiums, all of them Ray's breeding. General opinion, though Ray possibly may not have agreed, is that perhaps 2004 was his best flowering year to date.

Over succeeding years different cultivars of Hot Port won numerous show trophies and judging awards. Many other awards and honours came Ray's way. At least 10 cultivars of Hot Port received quality awards from all three judging systems in New Zealand. Hot Port was also recognised in breeder's awards, in each case for a group of 6 different cultivars from the same pod, flowering at the same time, all of award or near-award quality. Ray was the first recipient of the OCNZ Plant Breeder's Award when it was introduced in 2003; he had a few years previ-

ously received the NZOS Plant Breeder's Award; and in 2004 the CSA awarded him its Award of Breeder's Merit.

A founding member of the NZ branch of the Cymbidium Society of America (CSA), Ray was for 20 years up to his death its secretary-treasurer, newsletter writer and producer, correspondent with CSA headquarters, and latterly the chair of the local CSA judging panel. As organiser of judging seminar sessions, he liked to set a theme, to challenge the speakers, and at the same time entertain the audience. In recent years the themes included rugby (the so-called "super 12" competition), sailing (America's Cup), and cricket.

Ray made regular trips to the US to coincide with the Orchid Show and CSA Congress held at Santa Barbara around February. CSA headquarters honoured him in 2003 with the Jack Hudlow Medal, and 2004 the President's Distinguished Service Award. On two occasions the Torrance Cymbidium Society (California) gave him their James Toya award for red cymbidium breeding. Meanwhile, back at home, Ray received the John Easton Award, and the NZOS's Gold Medal of Achievement.

Ray was a judge in all the three orchid judging systems in New Zealand, ie OCNZ, NZOS and CSA; at various times he was chair of the local panels, sometimes at the same time!

Orchid grower, orchid hybridiser, orchid judge, administrator, leader, teacher, friend, chauffeur, photographer, teller-of-funny-stories, display designer, dreamer – his "dreams" prior to CSA seminars kept the presenters of seminar papers on their toes. And passionate about other things too: red wine; rugby – he was an avid watcher of televised rugby internationals; a ready sense of humour; and, above all, family man. Whatever pride Ray may have taken in his orchid achievements, it was surpassed by his pride in his family. And it is to them that we say a heartfelt "thank you" for sharing their man with us, and to them that we express our sympathies and condolences.

References:

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Tony Velardi, in *CSA Journal*, Jan-Feb 2004, page 19

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American Orchid Society

Australian Natives

Winter is the time for preparing your natives for spring. Get ready for repotting and tidy them up for the shows.

Many growers who work don't get to see much of their plants in daylight at this time of the year so it is important to get into the bush-house whenever you can to be sure things aren't going amiss. Look for overturned plants, damage from the cold or pests and weed growth. Check that any developing blooms aren't tangled in leaves and getting twisted. The earlier they are released, the better the chances they will develop normally to show the true potential of the plant. They are very brittle and snap off easily so take care. Be sure pests don't get them as it always a pity to spend time and effort caring for plants all year only to have their blooms destroyed by snails or other munchers so you don't get to enjoy them at their best.

Get ready for repotting now. You will be glad you did when you start work later and find everything is just where you need it. If you wash pots (and who doesn't recycle when they have only had one healthy owner?) get into the warm winter sun and start scrubbing and soaking. Use gloves and be sure to disinfect with bleach or whatever you have that will make sure they are really clean. Pots that had sick plants are best destroyed.

Don't reuse potting media for orchids. Save it for ferns and other foliage plants or use it on the garden as water saving mulch. Again, if a plant is obviously sick, dispose of the media or put it where it won't come into contact with orchids again.

Stock up on new, clean media in good quantities to cope with the numbers of plants you need to repot. There is not a lot that is more frustrating than spending a day repotting only to get to the last few plants and find that the grade of media they need has run out! If you decide to change to a water-retaining media or make changes to an established mix be sure to check it won't harm plants. There are many tales of woe amongst growers from those who decided to try the latest "great idea" for their media only to find that it killed their plants or set their growth back years after an emergency repotting session. The media you use must suit your growing conditions. Is your collection kept wet or (more likely) on the dry side? How big are your plants? And can you readily get hold of enough material? Ideally a new media should be tested for a number of seasons to see how the roots run through it and how quickly it breaks down and the effect this has on the roots.

Water (if you can get it) early in the day in cold weather. This gives the plants time to dry out before the cold of night. Fertiliser is not really needed at this time as active growth has all but ceased.

In bloom now are mainly the terrestrial natives. A diverse and spectacularly interesting group, they need special cultural procedures, although a few, such as *Pterostylis nutans*, are easy enough to grow if you can provide the care they need when they need it. As most of these plants are deciduous over summer they don't have the water demands of other natives such as *Sarcanthinae*. But then, not everyone is con-

the to look at pots of bare dirt for a couple of months either.

Cattleyas

Make sure your plants are now under cover for the winter. If you have a heated house set thermostat at around 10 degrees Celsius.

Make sure you give your plants plenty of light or you could end up with soft spindly growth.

A monthly application of MAJOR CARP® could help produce good health roots and nice bulbs especially if you have alternated the fertilizers with the now famous MERRI FERT!

Watch for garlic snails when moving your plants in under cover. Mesuroil W.P. spray is very good, but very expensive. Follow instructions that are on the packet very carefully. It really is only suitable for commercial growers.

Cymbidiums

All cymbidium growers are now getting excited as most growers will have started the flowering season! Now is the time to make sure your flowers will be A1. Stake all flowering racemes. Keep them as straight as possible and or use NIE-CO-ROLS to help the racemes along. Tie leaves away from the racemes-not too tight. Point the racemes to the sun, that is to the north. Once the buds leave the sheaf, make sure the plants are under cover. Hopefully you have no mites or fungal problems, as it is now too late to do anything about it. Commercial growers have used PYRANICA® to control mites when plants are in bud. Some phyto could be expected on some clones. In the old days we would dust the plants with TOMATO or DERIS DUST with good results.

Do not over water during winter. Weekly should do. Fertilise weekly with MERRI FERT. Once buds leave sheaf you could apply some AGRIDEX 35 (KDL) to increase size and depth of colour. If you live in a frost prone area, you should spray ENVY® on the plants that are left outside in the shade house. Don't forget to place a few snail pellets on all plants for snail protection.

Finally, if we get a wet winter, give your plants in the shade house a drench with AGRIFOS 600® or ANTI ROT®. This is to help control bulb and root rots over the winter period.

Paphiopedilum

Paphiopedilum hybrids are well into their flowering season. Most of the whites and early greens will be in flower, together with some of the coloured varieties. Many of the modern hybrids, particularly those with spotted flowers, will not flower until spring. Flower quality depends upon several factors; those under your control at this time of year are watering, feeding, staking and light.

During winter paphiopedilums do not require frequent watering. Whilst the actual frequency will depend upon the weather, the type of housing and the state of the potting mixture, you must resist the temptation to pick up the hose unless the plants are moderately dry. When you do water, water early on a sunny day and water thoroughly. After every third or

fourth watering allow the plants to drain for half an hour or so and then water with weak Aquasol (about half strength).

Staking is important if you want to avoid asymmetrical flowers. Try to encourage the stems to grow upright from the start. You will be able to support the growing stem with a loose tie a couple of inches or so below the bud. When the stem is fully grown and the bud about to open, lean the pot forward about fifteen degrees or so and keep it in this position until the flower has been open about a week; this will cause the flowers to "look up" a little.

Adequate light is very important for quality flowers. If at all possible, the amount of shading should be reduced considerably from mid-May until early September. This will result in larger, brighter flowers and longer - yes, longer - stronger stems; the plants will also benefit by continuing their growth cycle, albeit at a slower rate, through the winter months.

Although potting is best left until spring, any plant which is not doing well should be repotted into fresh mixture as soon as it is noticed, no matter what the season. If the roots have rotted away, dip the "bare rooted" plant in Fongarid and stake it firmly.

As a general rule the green-leaved hybrids can be grown quite well in cold conditions provided they are protected from heavy frost. Those with heated glasshouses do not need more than about six degrees centigrade, although young seedlings will benefit from somewhat warmer conditions. Maudiae types

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CULTURAL NOTES

are really warm growers and require about fifteen degrees to do well.

Phalaenopsis

By the time you read these notes winter will be with us. Now is the time to turn your heater on and ask your bank manager for a loan to pay for the heating bill. I usually set the thermostat to around 18 degrees Celsius. I have found, the higher the night temperature, the bigger the flowers and more on the spikes. Remember, to try and keep the day temperatures higher than the night temperature. When temperatures rise, you must increase the plants nutrient levels. One of Sydney's best phalaenopsis growers from the Hills District has the right balance of growing temperatures and nutrient intake. She has watched her plants very carefully over the years for this level of growth, and as she says, perfection is still a long way off, but I am always learning.

With the end of autumn and the beginning of winter, plants are ready for the magnesium treatment. This is very important, as it encourages the plants to produce new flower spikes and keeps the plants in good health over the winter months. First of all you must stop all applications of all nutrients. Apply magnesium sulphate foliar at 130 grams in 100 litres of water. Give plants three or four applications a week apart before winter hits. While giving your plants this treatment keep plants just damp. After giving your plants the magnesium treatment you can resume your winter fertilizer programme. Many growers these days like to use PETERS Cal Mag high "K" or EXCELL HI "K", apply weekly at label rates.

Watch for mealy bugs. You could spray with ECO OIL® or maybe LEBAYCID®, but watch your flowers as these two products could mark your blooms. (LEBAYCID® is registered for use on ornamentals).

Once you turn your heater on you may have to irrigate every four or five days. Watch the weather.

If you start getting leaf spots, spray with HYSAN® at label rates.

Vandaceous

Watering:— Cut back on watering during cooler months. Depending on local conditions, a good watering every three days should be sufficient. Water only in mornings. Avoid watering at all on cold or bleak days.

Light:— Strap leaf vandas and ascocendas require 50% shade. If you wish to move narrow leafed vandaceous plants (i.e. terete and semiterete vandas, Mokaras, Arandas, etc.) from a shade house to full sunlight, then now is a good time to move them.

Fertiliser:— Reduce fertilising to once per fortnight alternating between —

(1) Inorganic low nitrogen — Campbells A, Flowfed HP8, Aqua K or Phostrogen.

(2) Wuxall, Nitrosol or Fish Emulsion.

Pest control:— Spray with a fungicide every 6 weeks e.g. Daconil, Ridomil MZ WP, Mancozeb or Wettable Sulphur.

If insects or scale are a problem spray with Diazanone, Malathion or Pyrethrum.

Watch for mite damage (i.e. Red Spider, false spider, etc.) and treat with a miticide such as Kelthane or Tordon.



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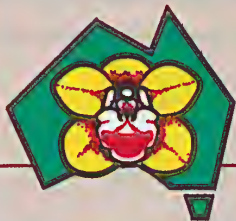
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Cymbidiums Australia

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Editor's Report

ANZAC Day saw the passing of one of this nation's greatest champions of cymbidiums, and founding editor of Cymbidiums Australia, Dean Roesler.

Since Cymbidiums Australia was first launched through the pages of the Australian Orchid Review back in August of 1995, all but ten years ago, Dean has brought his own unique perspective to the subject of cymbidiums and their culture. For those who have been enlightened, encouraged, entertained, inspired, or even challenged by Dean's editorials, features and articles over that time, two of his most recently completed articles are included in this issue, along with a number of tributes to a great and generous man who will be sorely missed. Dean's family detail his life story, while John Wood and Noe Smith chronicle his achievements as an orchid grower and editor/writer from their own experiences of the man.

To all of those who know Dean, were touched or inspired by him in some way, or simply enjoyed his writings as they appeared in these pages and elsewhere, remember him fondly as one of the true gentlemen of the orchid world – which he most certainly was.

The first of Dean's two articles in this issue continues his series of

reviews of eye-catching cymbidiums at last season's major shows. The second featured article reviews the important contribution of the *Cym. Sensation* grex in the development of modern red-coloured cymbidiums. Both articles are filled with his usual obvious enthusiasm for, and deep appreciation of, cymbidiums.

Also included in this issue Kevin Butler brings us an insight into "the good old days" of *Cymbidium* collecting via the plant list and prices from an orchid catalogue printed in 1937, and Phil Grech brings us his story of his *Cym. Radiant Ruby* 'Aussie Gem', a striking and very appealing miniature with *Cym. canaliculatum* in its background.

This issue also features the show schedules for both the National Cymbidium Show that is being staged in Port Adelaide, South Australia, and the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) show to be held at Warwick Farm. Both of these shows are scheduled for August which is, perhaps, the busiest month for orchid shows every season – but both are well worth attending and will showcase the best and newest cymbidiums available anywhere.

Good growing...

Rob & Noe Smith
Editors

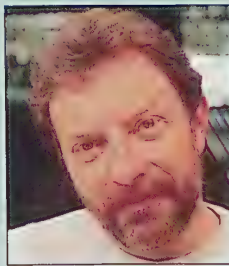
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Dean Roesler
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1995-2005



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Rob Smith

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President, Helen Stretch
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Venue: Mt. Waverley Youth Centre, Millers Crescent, Mt. Waverley, Victoria.
For further details contact Secretary, Kevin Brown, 4 Riviera Street, Mt Waverley, Victoria 3149
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Dean Roesler OAM

Founding Editor, Cymbidiums Australia

A dear friend to many of us and one of the orchid world's genuinely good people finally lost his long and arduous battle with cancer. For those left behind, the most glaringly obvious thing that hits you at a time like this is the fact that any words we may come up with are manifestly inadequate, but, outside of our personal grief words are all that are available to us in the expression of our feelings.

In attempting to pay tribute to the editor, the friend, the inspiration, the family member, or whatever Dean was to each of us who knew him on whatever level, we will each remember some particular times, events, words, or actions, that put his impact on our lives into focus.

To anyone involved in cymbidiums, one single and categorical statement is self-evident: No one has done more for the promotion and popularity of cymbidiums in Australia over the past 20 years than Dean Roesler and, for that reason alone, Dean's passing is a huge loss to *Cymbidium* growers at all levels – not only here in Australia, but overseas as well.

There are many people who knew Dean longer than we did and I'm sure they will have their own stories to tell in time. People need time to come to terms with events and, unfortunately, printing deadlines can only be delayed for so long. For our own part, we will simply comment on the man and his work that we know of directly through our association with him in the production of this magazine, and our frequent and lengthy talks on the future of cymbidiums, their hybridising (an area where Dean has achieved considerable success), the development of Australia's *Cymbidium* clubs, the shows, and the judging systems, etcetera.

In all areas, Dean always aimed for the stars, sought the best possible result for the greatest number of people, always asked what could be done to make things better, whether in hybridising, show formats, judging guidelines and values, or his beloved *Cymbidiums Australia*. Dean never acted based on self-interest or self-promotion and always put the interests of all *Cymbidium* enthusiasts ahead of his own.

Dean's contribution through the *Cymbidium* Club of South Australia's "Cymbidium News" and then, through the realisation of his dream of a national *Cymbidium* publication in the form of *Cymbidiums Australia* incorporated into the Australian Orchid Review, are probably the most public aspects of his contribution to cymbidiums. This publication in particular has been a magnificent labour of love for Dean. Certainly it has been a challenge he enjoyed immensely, although that fact in no way diminishes the hard work and effort required to get it off the ground and develop it into the world class publication it now is.

Dean would be the first to admit that there are many others who know more about cymbidiums than he did. He had no formal qualifications either in horticulture, writing, or

editing, and his knowledge and skill were acquired through a will to learn, hard work, and their resulting experience. His inexhaustible enthusiasm for cymbidiums and their promotion, his determination to do the best job he could, and his commitment to cater for all *Cymbidium* tastes and interests at all levels, were his undoubted strengths.

To Dean, everyone's views, ideas, comments, and experiences, were equally worthy of publication as long as they were positive, honest in intent, and were intended to do no harm. Nothing was ever considered insignificant if someone had taken the time and trouble to commit it to paper. In Dean's view every grain of information added to the understanding, development and appreciation of cymbidiums, whether it be the accessible writing of a hobby grower, or the meticulously researched studies of an expert. Everyone was

treated in the same even-handed manner, whether friends, those he admired, new acquaintances, unknown first-time contributors, or even those who criticised him. The odd occasional criticism, among all the overwhelmingly positive feedback for his achievements as editor, always struck him to the core and led him to undertake candid self-examination. He never resorted to the common human traits of becoming defensive or critical in return – proof alone of the stature of the man.

For Rob and I, Dean's invitation to join him in the editing of this publication was a surprise, and an honour. We knew how important this magazine was to him and, over the five years of working with

him, we've learnt a lot and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know him better. His confidence that we will maintain the same values is a special gift we can only repay by continuing as if he is still with us which, of course, he always will be.

We know that everyone's thoughts and sympathies go out to Dean's family, particularly to his wife, Mary, the support and constant in his life who allowed and helped him to be what he was to the rest of us. Few people can achieve their potential alone and, in Dean's case, Mary was his bedrock and his committed partner throughout their life together.

Dean's contribution will continue to run through these pages, not only in terms of the benchmark he set and, his influence, but also in the as yet unpublished articles he produced, some in his last weeks – a clearing of the decks and no doubt an enjoyable distraction from the effects of his failing health.

To those who knew him through cymbidiums, Dean Roesler was generous to a fault in actions and spirit. He was a great optimist. He was an idealist. He was a dreamer. All these are truly wonderful things to be. I wish there were more like him.

Noe and Rob.



Raymond Dean Roesler 1940-2005

by his family

Raymond Dean Roesler, better known by his family and friends as Dean – and otherwise known affectionately as Sammy, Chief Deano, Joyce, Pa, and Grumblebum – was born to Basil and Gertrude Roesler on the 30th of October 1940 at the Mount Pleasant Hospital. Dean was baptized and later confirmed in the Eden Valley Lutheran Church. He attended Eden Valley Primary School for three years then finished off his primary schooling at Wilton after moving to Menglers Hill. He attended the Nuriootpa High School.

At the age of 14, Dean became a Sunday School teacher at Eden Valley Lutheran Church for 16 years. He was also a Layreader and Elder at Eden Valley and then Gawler Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Dean helped with the family orchards and vineyards for several years and then started trapping rabbits so that he could afford his first car costing £25.

On the 2nd of September 1961 Dean married his teenage sweetheart, Mary Ihrms, at Eden Valley and their marriage was blessed with four sons and a daughter.

Dean was an outstanding sportsman, playing football and captaining the Eden Valley cricket team and, on his best year, averaged 90 runs. He also enjoyed playing tennis, indoor bowls, eight ball, was a keen card player, and a reluctant ballroom dancer. When Dean no longer played football himself, he was a timekeeper and umpired many of his sons' football matches. He was a lifelong supporter of the Norwood Redlegs and, later on, the Adelaide Crows.

Dean also loved his many trips with family and friends, some of which included yabbing up the Riverland, crabbing at Port Parham, and fishing at Rapid Bay.

He worked for Yalumba and helped establish the Pewsey Vale vineyard in the Barossa Valley, which is world-renowned for the finest Rhine Riesling. Dean also worked at Hamilton's, Eden Valley and managed Hamilton's, Springton, where he moved with his family into their first home. After a work injury in 1976, Dean moved back to Eden Valley.

In 1974 Dean bought his first orchid and what started as a hobby soon became a healthy obsession.

In 1985 Dean moved his life and family to Gawler due to the cold weather which was aggravating his back injury and causing frostbite to the orchids. There, with the help of family and friends, he built a new home.

Dean was actively and continuously involved in orchid clubs, helping with their development since 1980. He was a founding member and later became a life member of both the Gawler District Orchid Club and the Cymbidium Club of South Australia. He loved his work as the editor of several orchid newsletters and magazines over the past 20 years and has been made a patron member of the Riverland Orchid Society and the Ararat Orchid Club. It gave Dean great satisfaction to continue the life's work of Dr Miles Seton. Dean enjoyed many trips interstate to orchid shows, often being invited to address orchid meetings and conferences. He made many lifelong friends through his involvement with orchids and would often be heard saying, "There are no good orchids – there are only pretty ones." or "Seen any good orchids lately?"

Due to the efforts of orchid club members, family and friends, Dean was recognised under the Australian Honours Awards on the 26th of January 2004 for his contribution to Horticulture. He received the Order of Australia Merit from Governor General Marjorie Jackson Nelson at Government House in April 2004.

Dean was diagnosed with cancer in March 1997. The remainder of his years were a roller coaster ride of ups and downs with trips to hospitals, doctors and specialists, and the births of several of his grandchildren, all of whom he loved dearly and was extremely proud.

On ANZAC Day, the 25th of April 1005, Dean lost his battle with cancer and now he has finally found perfection as there are not only pretty orchids, but also perfect ones, as he walks through God's eternal garden.

Rest in peace.

Lest We Forget

Eulogy by John Wood

[and edited with John's agreement to complement the family's account of Dean's life]

ANZAC Day morning saw our great nation stop and silently salute the memories of all those young men who selflessly gave their lives at Gallipoli 90 years ago, and in every conflict since, in the hope that we might enjoy ours as Australians today. Somewhere between the Dawn Service and celebrations at RSL clubs and Army depots another beloved South Australian, Dean Roesler, quietly let go his own personal battle and his attachment to worldly ways to join that great group of other Australians whose memory we will always cherish.

Along with Dean's many achievements already described, 1997 saw him appointed legatee for the Dr Miles Seton bequest, a research project founded by the late Dr Seton MBBS of New South Wales, involving the hybridising and registration of some 12 *Cym. suave* hybrids and the ongoing breeding of Australian *Cymbidium* orchid species, particularly *Cym. suave*.

Dean had made the pilgrimage to Dr Seton's home at Bermagui several times and captured video recordings of a great Australian *Cymbidium* legend and his orchids. In a *Cymbidiums Australia* article Dean modestly stated, "The total number of hours I spent sharing this great man's life was only 85, yet I felt I had known him an entire lifetime!" So it was with humility that Dean accepted a mission to carry on a last wish made known to him by Dr Seton's family. Dean had a number of projects underway as a commitment to continue Dr Seton's work, yet acknowledged to his friends that he regretted that he might not live to see the results of his efforts. The last *Cym. suave* hybrid registered by Dr Seton before his death in 1996 was *Cym. Dean Roesler* (Brown Eyes x *suave*).

Like the ANZAC's with whom we will forever share the 25th of April in our living memory, he will also not grow old and his light and life will live on for us through the many glorious and unique *Cymbidium* seedlings he created and sent out into the world to grow, flower and delight.

Mary, on behalf of his students, admirers, colleagues and friends, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for sharing Dean with us so generously, and for so long.

John Wood, Farrell Flats, South Australia.

Seen Any Good Orchids Lately?

Text by Dean Roesler – Photography by Michael Matthews

Since the inception of National Orchid Shows and the Australian Cymbidium Festival came to the splendid old Ararat Town Hall ten years ago, *Cymbidium* enthusiasts from throughout Australia as well as many visitors from overseas countries have been privileged to see some of the very best cymbidiums on display. From the very latest seedlings to magnificently grown and presented specimen plants, one can walk the hall 100 times and still miss plants of intrigue. And yearly, I marvel at the beautiful and spectacular displays mounted by eager exhibitors – something to catch the eye of all who come to see it! The following are a selection of flowers that had features I'm looking for when choosing good orchids!

1. *Cym.* (Blazing Fury x Khan Flame) 'No.2'

David Wain showed two excellent seedlings from this Bryants Orchids crossing. I chose 'No.2'. It displayed 12 large deep bur-



Cym. (Hazelbury x Solana Beach)

gundy flowers on an upright spike, with the flowers displaying themselves perfectly. Very flat flowers with good segment width were a feature. The white lip was well set off with a dark red band, red column and white pollen cap – all traits which stand out and make a good orchid.

2. *Cym.* (Hazelbury x Solana Beach)

This white intermediate owned by Ken Purcell displayed its spikes like a lovely arching bridal bouquet. I selected it because of the light rosy pink brushing over all the segments that gave it a rosy glow. When these markings are uniform and consistent I believe they add great character, depth and individual uniqueness to the flower. Its attractive white lip was also blushed on the distal end with rose pink – dark red spots dotted the entire lip.

3. *Cym.* Kimberley Winter 'Chartreuse' (Kellys Winter x Allumination)

Another of the awarded *Cym.* Kimberley Winters owned and shown by Phil Grech. 'Chartreuse' appeals to me because of its lovely soft mellow, yet distinct lime green colour, while its delicately marked lip also blends in well with this colour combination. Twelve flowers presented on a strong upright spike in the immaculate show bench presentation that we have come to know and expect of Phil.

4. *Cym.* Red Pepper 'Janice' (Ruby Eyes x Rolf Bolin)

Not quite what one would expect from the parents, nevertheless the result here is quite startling and something I'm sure many hybridists would like to repeat in a whole range of sizes. From a batch of *Cym.* Red Pepper mericlones that had normal red



Cym. (Blazing Fury x Khan Flame)



Cym. Kimberley Winter 'Chartreuse'

marked lips, Andy and Jan Leamon flowered this pleasant surprise, a dark burgundy intermediate with a white lip almost devoid of any markings except for a fine red tick in the centre of the distal end.

5. *Cym. Golden Embers 'No.2'* (Kellys Winter x Tracey Reddaway)

Terry Poulton flowers many new seedlings each year and always comes up with something good. This bright yellow won Champion Seedling Small Standard and shows great potential. Two spikes carried 12 and 14 flowers, the rich colour of the segments highlighted by an equally impressive lip, which displayed a "stitched" band of red.

6. *Cym. Kirby Lesh 'Olympia'* (Pink Champagne x Red Beauty)

Since Graham Guest won Grand Champion of the first



Cym. Red Pepper 'Janice'

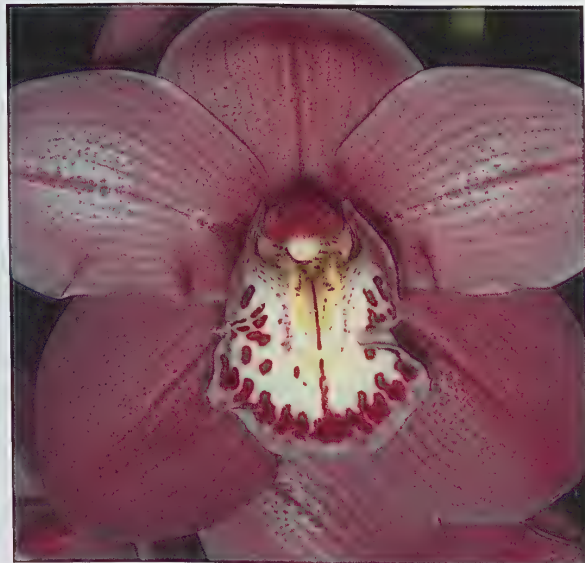
National Cymbidium Orchid Show held in 1996 with a *Cym. Kirby Lesh*, we have seen many different varieties shown. Quite a few of these have come from Kimberley Orchids. All the seedlings flowered by them have been obtained from the Geyserland Orchids cross. 'Olympia' was a nice flat flower in the mid-pink colour range and displayed a nice white lip highlighted by a narrow red band.

7. *Cym. Valley Kim 'Wow'* (Valley Legend x Margaret Thatcher)

I have gone against my own selection criteria and included this new and very impressive mericlone produced by Valley Orchids. We are seeing a lot of yellow/green flowers these days as more and more combinations are made between these two colours. I liked the colour of 'Wow' especially with its bold yellow lip and bright red band. Imre Takacs displayed the plant with two impressive spikes.



Cym. Golden Embers 'No.2'



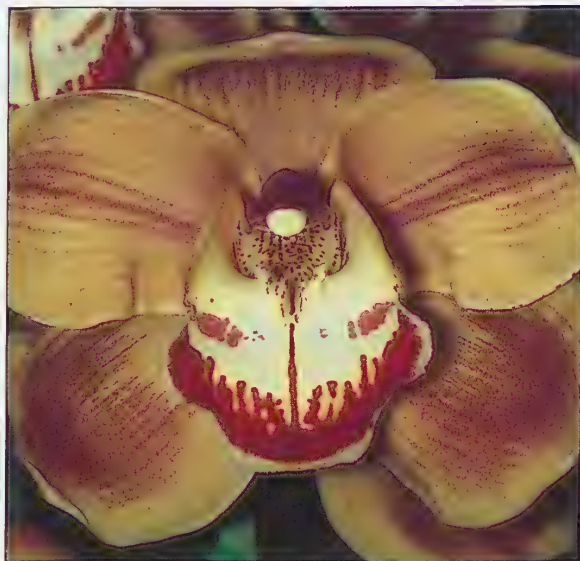
Cym. Kirby Lesh 'Olympia'



Cym. Valley Kim 'Wow'

8. *Cym. Sonoma Sunset 'Fire Dance'* (Claude Pepper x Cora Paddison)

I personally have had this orchid for something like ten years now and have always been impressed by it when it is flowering. Heavily brushed with rich sunset colours, it possesses outstanding shape. The cream lip, which is well proportioned has a bright



Cym. Sonoma Sunset 'Fire Dance'

red band. Its only downside is a low flower count with 12 flowers being the maximum. Another of the fine results obtained from Geyserland Orchids breeding.

9. *Cym. (Khan Flame x Yowie Rose)*

Another good red standard that caught my eye. This one from

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Cym. (Khan Flame x Yowie Rose)

a Bryants Orchids cross was shown by Terry Poulton. Strong even colour made it stand out especially with a lip that stole the show – the distal end being a solid velvet red whilst the back half was yellow. Put a white pollen cap on a red column and it always stands out. Lots of potential here!

12. *Cym.* Kimberley Valley 'Kununurra' (Valley Zenith x Allumination)

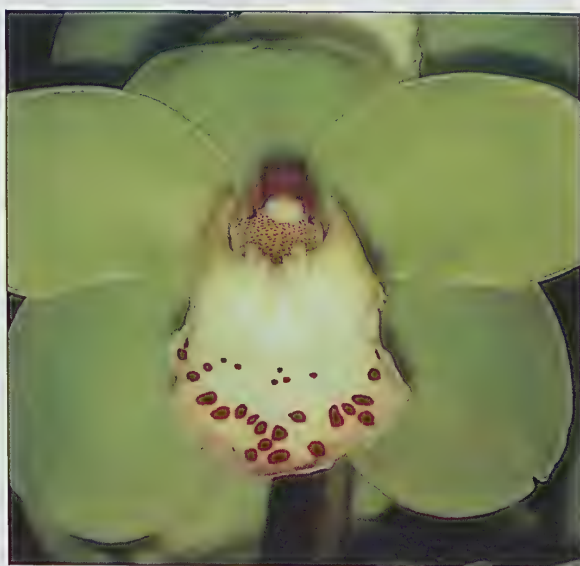
This was a very nice green standard shown and hybridised by Kimberley Orchids. Large flat flowers with good even segment width displayed well on the spikes. It had a clean white lip with light pink blushing and just a few dark red spots towards the distal end.

10. *Cym.* (Else Sandersen x Loftus Gold) 'Starquest'

I have shown this unusual coloured intermediate only twice and it has caused much comment. It comes from a crossing made by Schaefer's Orchids. Notable are its rich golden-maize



Cym. (Else Sandersen x Loftus Gold) 'Starquest'



Cym. Kimberley Valley 'Kununurra'

coloured segments with a prominent red mid-line running through the petals. The lip is heavily blushed with dark-pink around the edges and highlighted by a white patch around the lovely yellow keels. *Cym.* Valya Craig 'Judy', a grandparent of *Cym.* Loftus Gold, has influenced this flower to a great degree.

11. *Cym.* Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' (Cronulla x Lancashire Rose)

This beautiful pink standard with its brilliant contrasting red-banded lip was shown by David Wain. Once again we see a very flat flower which would be most useful as a cut-flower or pot-plant type variety. Looking at the lip we see yet other added highlights a red column and white pollen cap. Would you believe that David was able to purchase this as a trading table discard? How lucky can you get!

Dean Roesler
20 Lawson Road
Kalbeeba, SA 5118



Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'

Schaefer's Orchids



**Coco Jim
'Starquest' AM**

Francie Porter "Enid"

Congratulations to Archie Halton on his FCC award for the magnificent Francie Porter "Enid"; only the 5th ever FCC granted to a cymbidium in Australia. This will be patented with mericlones available from us in late 2006. This capped of a very satisfying year for us with 4 AM's granted to our orchids, including the vibrant orange Uluru "Starquest" grown beautifully by Geoff LeMarne.

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2005 National Cymbidium Orchid Show

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Grand Champion of Show	\$500 + Sash	Fleurijn Orchids-Holland
Champion Large Flower	\$150 + Sash	Australian Orchid Nursery
Champion Small Standard	\$150 + Sash	T P Castings
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Champion Novelty	\$150 + Sash	David Wain
Champion Cut Stem	\$150 + Sash	Tom Burian Orchids
Champion Seedling Large Flower	\$150 + Sash	Ezi-Gro Orchids
Champion Seedling Small Standard	\$150 + Sash	Aranen Orchids
Champion Seedling Intermediate	\$150 + Sash	Battack Orchids
Champion Seedling Miniature	\$150 + Sash	Sims Orchids
Champion Display	\$250 + Sash	City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Best Display by a State Club	\$250 + Trophy	John Mata Award
Most Innovative Display by a State Club	\$250 + Trophy	Australian Cymbidium Society Award
Large Display – incorporating a Theme/Artistic	\$150 + Gold Sash	Valley Orchids
	\$100 + Silver Sash	Foxfire Orchids
	\$ 75 + Bronze Sash	Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW)
Large Display – 4 metres x 2.5 metres	\$150 + Gold Sash	Ken Rickard Orchids
	\$100 + Silver Sash	Smoults Mobile Horticultural Supplies
	\$ 75 + Bronze Sash	Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria
Medium Display – incorporating a Theme/Artistic	\$150 + Gold Sash	Shenandoah Orchids
	\$100 + Silver Sash	Cummings Orchids
	\$ 75 + Bronze Sash	Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA
Medium Display – 3 metres x 2.5 metres	\$150 + Gold Sash	Western Orchid Laboratories
	\$100 + Silver Sash	Orchidland Nursery
	\$ 75 + Bronze Sash	Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA
Small Display – incorporating a Theme/Artistic	\$100 + Gold Sash	Pauline's Laboratory Service
	\$ 75 + Silver Sash	Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria
	\$ 50 + Bronze Sash	River Orchids
Small Display – 2 metres x 2.5 metres	\$100 + Gold Sash	City of Port Adelaide Enfield
	\$ 75 + Silver Sash	Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW)
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“Simply Sensational!”

by Dean Roesler

When a study is made of the colourful dark-pink and red cymbidiums seen in Australia today, it quickly identifies one underlying factor – many can be traced back to *Cym. Sensation*! I can well recall one famous hybridiser telling me not to be too concerned with genetic factors in parentage other than in the immediate parents to be combined. While another well known guru pointed to complex species percentages to try and convince me that breeding was so scientific, that failure was guaranteed if this course of action was not followed.

Let us not become too embroiled in the issues of genetic factors in hybridising, but instead, stop for a moment and pay tribute to a *Cymbidium* that has made a great contribution to some of the most beautiful flowers presently being seen in Australia.

Although much breeding has been done throughout the world to produce red cymbidiums, with many outstanding results, this article is confined to those achieved or seen in Australia.

Cym. Sensation and its history

Let us firstly take a look at the grex in question. *Cym. Sensation* (Spartan Queen x Fascination) was hybridised by Wondabah Orchids (Sydney) and registered by them in 1961. It produced highly coloured, small standard cymbidiums like nothing seen in this country before. Varieties such as ‘Aminya’, ‘Chianti’ ‘Melita’, ‘Kimberley’, ‘Vieux Rose’, as well as others, were much sought after. At the time they were the pinnacle of intense red coloured cymbidiums. The *Cym. Sensation* crossing was made using diploid parents – however, it would be wise to point out even at this early stage that most, if not all, of its best results were achieved when tetraploid converted clones of many of these *Cym. Sensation* varieties (as well as seedlings also converted to tetraploid status through the use of colchicine) were selected for further breeding.

Throughout Australia as well as overseas, hybridists used this new breeding material in many combinations. As it so often happens when new opportunities occur, most of these crosses were made without giving much thought as to their outcome. Currently 155 crosses have been registered with *Cym. Sensation* as a parent. Four of these have been outstanding parents.



Cym. Lancashire Rose 'Maureen' 4n

Key *Cym. Sensation* hybrids

As with most grexes that produce many new hybrids, only a small number ever reach the next level of excellence as parents.

From the *Cym. Sensation* hybrids those

to achieve this accolade have been:

Cym. Terama, *Cym. Yowie Flame*, *Cym. Lancashire Rose* and *Cym. Ruby Eyes*.

Others too have been a factor in breeding but, however, for this exercise, I will confine my comments to these four that in



Cym. Blazing Fury 'Edel'



Cym. Flaming Pepper 'Kahlua'



Cym. Ruby Valley 'No.1'

my opinion have made the greatest contribution to the development of red cymbidiums in this country.

***Cym. Terama* (Westholme x Sensation)**

Registered in 1971 by Wondabah Orchids, three tetraploid varieties most influential in breeding come to mind, 'Cardinal', 'Yowie Bay' and 'Robin'. Their intense, even colouration was passed on to a selection of progeny that I will talk about now.

In 1981 ten years after registering *Cym. Terama*, Wondabah Orchids registered and began marketing another of their new cre-

ations *Cym. Wallamurra 'Jupiter'* (Warella x *Terama*). This *Cymbidium* created much excitement at the time. For here was one of the darkest standard cymbidiums seen and it became much sought after by enthusiasts.

A stunning intermediate was hybridised by South Australian John Harris and registered in 1989. Shown at the 1987 Asian Pacific Orchid Conference held in Adelaide it caught the eye of many, including the judging panel who awarded it an Highly Commended Certificate. The plant was Jedda 'Dark Chocolate' and it came from a crossing of *Cym. Brunette* with

Cym. Terama. The vibrant chocolate/brown segments were highlighted by a beautiful yellow lip.

More recently, at the 2001 National Cymbidium Orchid Show a plant of *Cym. Coco Jim 'Starquest'* grown by Geoff LeMarne swept all before it. As well as being Grand Champion of the show it also received an Award of Merit granted by two separate judging panels – the New South Wales Orchid Societies and the Australian Cymbidium Society who granted it a highly pointed Award of Merit. Many consider it will receive an FCC when shown for award judging with just a few more



Cym. Kurralta Park 'Tennyson'

flowers. 'Starquest' was hybridised by Schaefer's Orchids Sydney and is a cross of *Cym.* (Solana Beach x Terama).

Other fine progeny produced from *Cym.* Terama are the following :

Cym. Tathra = (Yowie Flame x Terama)

Cym. Yowie Rose = (Lancashire Rose x Terama)

Cym. President Gorbachev = (Terama x Palace Court)

Grand Champion of the 2004 National Cymbidium Show was a plant of *Cym.* Valley Olympic 'Pink Perfection' (Valley Winter x President Gorbachev) owned by David Wain. We see from its breeding that it also carries the genes of *Cym.* Terama, through the parentage of *Cym.* President Gorbachev.

***Cym.* Yowie Flame (Tapestry x Sensation)**

Registered by GA Jones (affectionately known as Don) from Sydney in 1981 and having been used in 84 registered crosses, in combination with many fine stud plants, this is the most widely used of the four outstanding *Cym.* Sensation progeny I have chosen for this profile.

The tetraploid *Cym.* Yowie Flame varieties, 'Krakatoa' and 'Yowie Bay' have been most successful as parents and their progeny are now proving to be successful as well. These varieties were just what were needed to add rich colour and bold lips into the red breeding line.

In recent years the improvement in red cymbidiums in all sizes is evident on the show bench, in particular the larger flowered types that have improved in all aspects – better growers, larger and more filled in flowers, taller spikes and higher flower counts.

Cym. Blazing Fury 'Edel' an exception-

ally good red standard won the 1999 SAGE Horticultural Cymbidium Seedling of The Year for its owner, Vic Haskard.

Most notable of the *Cym.* Yowie Flame grexes we see on the showbench today are the following:

Cym. Blazing Fury = (Yowie Flame x Lancashire Rose)

Cym. Yowie Pepper = (Yowie Flame x Pearly Pepper)

Cym. Lady Angela = (Yowie Flame x

Via Del Playa)

Cym. Tathra = (Yowie Flame x Terama)

Cym. Spotted Leopard = (Yowie Flame x Solana Beach)

Cym. Kurralta Park = (Yowie Flame x Chocolada)

Cym. James Tee Kirk = (Claude Pepper x Yowie Flame)

Cym. Midnight Dancer = (Matipo x Yowie Flame)



Cym. Ruby Valley 'Clare'



Cym. Terama 'Yowie Bay' 4n



Cym. Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron' 4n



Cym. Jedda 'Dark Chocolate'



Cym. Lancashire Ruby 'Paradisia'



Cym. Yowie Rose



Cym. Wallamurra 'Jupiter'



Cym. Coco Jim 'Starquest'

Cym. Lancashire Rose (Warella x Sensation)

This is yet another outstanding result from the Wondabah Orchids hybridizing program from an era during the 1970's. However, its rise to prominence as a parent occurred after it was converted to tetraploid status by Wyong Orchids. The

variety 'Maureen' 4N with its bold red banded lip has been an outstanding parent and from its most successful progeny we are now seeing the next crop of excellent results emerge.

The following are my selection of outstanding Cym. Lancashire Rose progeny:

Cym. Yowie Rose = (Lancashire Rose x Terama)

Cym. Blazing Fury = (Yowie Flame x Lancashire Rose)

Cym. Wyong Ruby = (Lancashire Rose x Sensation)

Cym. Evelyn Victoria = (Lancashire Rose x Sylvan Globe)

Cym. Surman's Rose = (Lancashire Rose x Via Del Playa)

Cym. Lancashire Lady = (Matipo x Lancashire Rose)

Cym. Lancashire Khan = (Cronulla x Lancashire Rose)

Cym. Ruby Eyes (pumilum x Sensation)

This without doubt is the most successful first generation Cym. *pumilum* hybrid used for breeding in the world today, with many of its progeny receiving awards. Yet another of the great contributions made to the *Cymbidium* breeding bank by Wondabah Orchids and registered by them in 1978. To date 84 crosses have been registered with it and no doubt more are yet to come. Most breeding has been done with the tetraploid converted variety 'Red Baron'. When used as a parent it is important to note that it is most successful when used as the pollen parent.

In combination with many standards it almost invariably produces a worthwhile result, although one must say it is not without its faults – most noticeable being a tendency to give lips the appearance of "bleeding". It could also be described as a dominant parent with many of its offspring looking much like Cym. Ruby Eyes itself.

In 2001 Andy and Jan Leamon showed a group of Cym. Ruby Valleys. The awarded clone 'No.1' went on to be

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Cym. Blazing Fury



Cym. Peggy Foo



Cym. James Tee Kirk 'Lucy'



Cym. James Tee Kirk 'Fireball'



Cym. Blazing Fury



Cym. Red Adair 'Fireball'

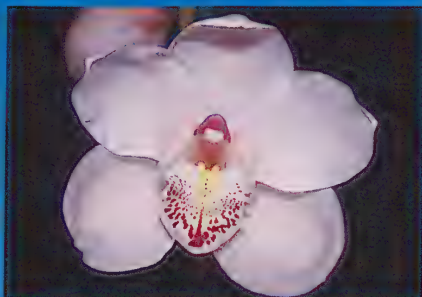


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| B. Cym. Bellissimo 'Pure' – green int | J. Cym. Sweet Sixteen 'Pastel' – pink int |
| C. Cym. Boz 'No. 1' – red int | K. Cym. Stephen 'Err' – pink std perloric |
| D. Cym. Fairy Floss 'Pink Show' – pink std | L. Cym. Rumours 'Red Globe' – red std |
| E. Cym. Free Spirit 'Grape' – red std | M. Cym. Red Promise 'Red Stone' – red std |
| F. Cym. Fine Touch 'Surprise' – white std | N. Cym. Rainbow Warrior 'Birthday' – white int |
| G. Cym. Hayley 'Sweet' – red int | O. Cym. Thelma Robinson 'Generous' |
| H. Cym. Joy Raye 'Hot Lips' – pink int | |

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selected 2001 SAGE Horticultural Cymbidium Seedling of The Year.

The following is my selection of the best grexes produced by Cym. Ruby Eyes. I'm sure you will recognize most, having seen their names on the winning lists of many recent shows:

Cym. Ruby Valley = (Valley Regent x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Willunga Regal = (Kiata x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Lancashire Ruby = (Lancashire Rose x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Ruby Pendant = (Last Tango x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Peggy Foo = (Showff x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Street Hawk = (Claude Pepper x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Marilyn Levy = (Red Beauty x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Aussie Rules = (Kurun x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Ten Pin = (Ruby Eyes x Tethys)

Cym. Doris Butler = (Alegria x Ruby Eyes)

Cym. Redletter = (Wallacia x Ruby Eyes)

Summary

A great debt of gratitude is owed to Wondabah Orchids for their outstanding developmental work in the initial stages of red cymbidiums in this country. And in recent years we have much to thank Bryants Orchids for, having used much of this material in their red breeding program.

Cym. Sensation has left a legacy for red cymbidiums in Australia that will stand testimony to time. Twenty years into the future you will be able to look back and see the next generations of outstanding red cymbidiums have come from parents used from those names I have listed in this article. It truly is, "Simply Sensational".

Dean Roesler

20 Lawson Road
Kalbeeba, SA 5118

Cym. Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem'

Text and photography by Phil Grech

In 1997 I purchased a compot of *Cymbidium* seedlings from Alex Smith of Highfield Orchids in Toowoomba, Queensland. The cross was Cym.[(*canaliculatum* var. 'Sparkesii' x Bexley Radiance 'Bexley') x Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron' 4n].

Alex had told me that the pod parent, Cym. (*canaliculatum* var. 'Sparkesii' x Bexley Radiance 'Bexley') had long erect spikes with forty or so miniature blooms per spike and coloured a dark velvet red with near black labellums. According to Alex, the compot I received was only three months out of flask, which surprised me as the plants were already some 180mm tall. This rapid growth continued and in another three months the plants were large enough to move up to 100mm pots.

The first seedling flowered three years later in a 180mm pot, but was ready to pot up into a 200mm pot immediately after flowering. Two 800mm long spikes were produced on this first flowering with twenty blooms on one spike and twenty-five on the other. The flowers were very flat and displayed themselves well on the inflorescence. Colour was very dark velvet red with a near black labellum, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph.

Being very impressed with this result I contacted Alex Smith seeking permission to register both this cross and the unregistered pod parent and, as a result, Cym. (*canaliculatum* x Bexley Radiance) became Cym. Radiant Spark and, what was now Cym. (Radiant Spark x Ruby Eyes) became Cym. Radiant Ruby – with the plant pictured becoming Cym. Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem'.

Other seedlings of Cym. Radiant Ruby which I have flowered from the same compot were not as impressive to my eyes as 'Aussie Gem', but many were still very nice miniature cymbidiums in colours ranging from dark rosy pink to very dark red, as would be expected given the parentage of the cross.

On its subsequent flowering, Cym. Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem' produced five spikes with between thirty and forty-five flowers per inflorescence.

Cym. Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem' was shown only once on its first flowering and was selected as both Best Miniature Cymbidium Seedling, and Best Seedling of the Show.

Given Cym. Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem' has provided such good results and displayed a number of desirable traits, such as rapid growth, floriferousness,



Cym. Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem' from its first flowering.

desirable spike habit, and exceptional colour it was decided to mericlone the plant. As a result, mericlones will shortly be available and are to be released at the 2005 National Cymbidium Orchid Show at Port Adelaide this August.

While it's true that outstanding seedlings are the exception rather than the

rule, the satisfaction gained from growing and flowering plants such as Cym. Radiant Glow 'Aussie Gem' makes the addition of seedlings to our collections a very worthwhile and enjoyable part of our hobby. ■

Phil Grech

5 Llewelyn Court,
Bairnsdale, Victoria 3875



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Cymbidium Species from an Old Catalogue

Text by Kevin Butler

I was very fortunate to be given a copy of an orchid catalogue which was dated 1937 and was produced by Charlesworth Co Ltd of Sussex, England. This catalogue is more like a book and would have taken an extremely long time to put together. It is fascinating to discover what cymbidiums were available at that time and the prices that their customers were being asked to pay. As plants could not be reproduced by cloning at that time many plants on offer were one offs.

Under the heading *Cymbidium* was a brief description of what this type of orchid was like. What was stated was "A very handsome and decorative genus; mostly terrestrial and very adaptable."

In this report I will be discussing the species that were being presented. The species were listed in alphabetical order with a code number, followed by the name of the species. Its country of origin was placed in brackets after the plant name followed by a brief description of the plant size. Lastly was the price.

First in the list was *Cym. albucaeflorum* from Australia. I have never heard of this species so I did some more research. This name is a synonym for *Cym. madidum*. In 1859 a plant called *Cym. albucaeflorum* was described by F Muell. It is interesting to note that the name was still being used when the catalogue was produced in 1937. The plants that were being offered for sale were described as being strong plants with 3 to 4 bulbs plus one lead. The cost for this orchid was 2 pounds 2 shillings.

Next was *Cym. aloifolium* which was imported from Burma. Plants were on offer for one pound one shilling and were described as fine plants with six bulbs and two leads. From North India, *Cym. dayanum* and *Cym. eburneum* were on offer. *Cym. dayanum* cost one pound one shilling and were 5 to 7 bulb plants with two leads. *Cym. eburneum* cost one pound eleven shillings and sixpence. Only one plant was on offer which was five bulbs with three growths.

Next in alphabetical order was *Cym. finlaysonianum* from Malaya. Only one plant was on offer consisting of four bulbs and two leads for one pound eleven shillings. Another plant from North India on offer was *Cym. giganteum*. Five bulbs and one lead for one pound one shilling.

Cym. i'ansonii var 'Cravenianum' was offered for one pound eleven shillings and sixpence and was described as a good plant consisting of four bulbs and one growth. Back in the early 1900's it was thought that *Cym. i'ansonii* was a natural hybrid. Today it is recognised as a species but only as a variety of *Cym. lowianum*. I am not familiar with the variety 'Cravenianum' but do know that *Cym. Cravenianum* and *Cym. Gattონense* have been used as synonyms for *Cym. i'ansonii*. *Cym. Cravenianum* has not been registered but *Cym. Gattόνense* is the registered name for the cross of *Cym. lowianum* and *Cym. tracyanum*.

Three forms of *Cym. insigne* were offered. The cheapest was *Cym. insigne* var. 'Sanderæ' for 15 shillings. They were 4 to 5 bulb plants with one lead. *Cym. sanderæ* is listed as a synonym of *Cym. insigne*. *Cym. insigne* 'Enchantress' was listed as a propagated plant of 3 bulbs and one lead. Its cost was one pound eleven shillings. An awarded form of *Cym. insigne* 'Rhodochilum' AM/RHS was available for two pound two shillings. The plant was only two bulbs and one lead in size. The original plant was awarded on the 13th March 1923 and at that time was shown by Messrs Sander. The petals of this form are white with a pink blush but the labellum is very different for a *Cym. insigne* being pink all over with red spotting becoming bars also displayed all over the labellum. Two yellow keels were also dominant. All the *Cym. insigne's* were listed as coming from Assam.

From Burma came *Cym. lowianum*. Three forms were also available. The usual form of 6 bulbs and two leads was on sale for 15 shillings. *Cym. lowianum* var. 'Concolor' was for sale at two pound twelve shillings and sixpence. This plant was of the same size. The most expensive of all the species at four pound four shillings was *Cym. lowianum* 'Pitts Variety'. The plant was of a similar size with six bulbs with one lead.

Under *Cym. pumilum* were listed the *album* and *marginatum* forms. These were plants of 9 to 12 bulbs with 3 to 4 leads with the plants coming from Japan. These plants were the cheapest of all the species at twelve shillings and sixpence.

Next in the catalogue were three plants

of *Cym. tracyanum* from Burma. The smallest of the plants being seven bulbs and two leads was offered for one pound eleven shillings and sixpence. A plant of 12 bulbs and 3 leads cost three pound three shillings and finally, an extra fine specimen having twenty bulbs and four leads was available for five pounds five shillings.

Last on the list, and out of alphabetical order, was *Cym. suavissimum*. Instead of the country of origin being listed in brackets after the name, "rare" was used instead in brackets. The plant size was four bulbs and a strong growth. The cost was expensive being five pounds five shillings. This species also come from Burma.

The cultural requirements listed in the catalogue were interesting. It was stated that cymbidiums like similar greenhouse conditions as geraniums. A temperature of 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit at night with a rising day temperature by sun heat and plenty of fresh air. It was also stated they could tolerate less moisture in the atmosphere when compared to other orchids. The compost recommended was a good fat loam and fibre mix in equal parts with some broken crocks to keep it open. It was recommended to overhead syringe the plants with clear water during bright days to keep away cymbidium's worst enemy, 'Red Spider'. It was also interesting to note that in 1937 growers of cymbidiums had problems with red spider.

Most of the species listed in this old catalogue are still available today and are the more commonly seen species.

Kevin Butler
Ezi-Gro Orchids
76 Evandale Road
Landsdale WA 6065

[Editor's Note: How lucky are we today when you consider the cost of cymbidiums back in 1937? A little research identified wages for "ordinary" workers in Britain as being around one pound ten shillings to two pounds ten shillings at that time, making the cost of one Cymbidium roughly equivalent to a full week's wages. No wonder that the growing of orchids was the exclusive domain of the rich and privileged. In today's times most of those plants would be equivalent to \$500 to over \$1,000 each. How times have changed!]

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Show Schedule

GRAND CHAMPION OF THE SHOW	\$250 + Sash	The Orchid Mart
RESERVE CHAMPION	\$150 + Sash	The Orchid Mart
CHAMPION LARGE FLOWER CYMBIDIUM	\$ 50 + Sash	
CHAMPION SMALL STANDARD CYMBIDIUM	\$ 50 + Sash	
CHAMPION INTERMEDIATE CYMBIDIUM	\$ 50 + Sash	
CHAMPION MINIATURE CYMBIDIUM	\$ 50 + Sash	
CHAMPION SEEDLING CYMBIDIUM	\$ 50 + Sash	
CHAMPION CATTLEYA	\$ 50 + Rosette	
CHAMPION PHALAENOPSIS	\$ 50 + Rosette	
CHAMPION PAPHIOPEDILUM	\$ 50 + Rosette	
CHAMPION NATIVE	\$ 50 + Rosette	
CHAMPION SPECIES	\$ 50 + Rosette	
CHAMPION MISCELLANEOUS ORCHID	\$ 50 + Rosette	
CHAMPION DISPLAY	\$150 + Sash	
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	BRONZE SASH \$25	C.C.A.
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SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
New South Wales				
11-12 June	10.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Camden Haven	Laurieton United Servicemens Club Seymour Street, Laurieton
11-12 June	9.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Great Lakes	Forster Primary School Head Street, Forster
15-18 June	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	South Coast	Corrimal Park Mall Princes Highway, Corrimal
16-19 June	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	OSNSW	St Ives Shopping Village, St Ives
16-18 June	Shopping Centre Hours to 2.00pm Saturday	Autumn	Maitland & Coalfields District	Raymond Terrace Market Place Raymond Terrace
20 June	8.00pm-10.00pm	Winter	Eastern Suburbs	St. Lukes Church Hall Cnr. Arden & Varna Streets, Clovelly
21-25 June	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Boolaroo	Stockland Shopping Centre, Jesmond
23-25 June	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Sutherland Shire	Swanes Nursery 80 Port Hacking Road, Sylvania
26 June	9.00am-3.30pm			
29 June	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Cumberland Orchid Circle	Westfield Shoppingtown North Rocks
2 July				
30 June	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Manly Warringah	Centro Shopping Centre Jackson Road, Warriewood
2 July				
2 July	11.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Shoalhaven	Berry Showgrounds Berry
3 July	9.00am-4.00pm			
5 July	7.30pm-10.00pm	Winter	Panania East Hills	Panania Senior Citizens Hall Cnr. Anderson Avenue & Pepper Street, Panania
7-9 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Blue Mountains & Penrith Districts	Fountain Court, Level 1 Penrith Plaza, Penrith
7-10 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Campbelltown & District	Macarthur Square Shopping Centre Keltycar Road, Campbelltown
9-10 July	9.00am-3.00pm	Winter	Illawarra District	96 Market Street, Wollongong
9 July	9.00am-2.00pm	Winter	Southern Riviera	Anglican Church Hall, Princess Highway, Milton
14-16 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Eastwood & District Orchid Circle	Eastwood Shopping Centre Rowe Street, Eastwood
17-23 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Fairfield District	Stockland Mall, Polding Street, Wetherill Park
21-23 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Hawkesbury District	Westpoint Shopping Centre Patrick Street, Blacktown
21-23 July	Shopping Centre Hours to 4.00pm Saturday	Winter	North Shore	The Garden Centre, 802-808 Pacific Highway, Gordon
21-24 July	Shopping Centre Hours to 4.00pm Saturday	Winter	Central Coast Hunter Region Cymbidium	Tuggerah Supa Centre, Tuggerah
22 July	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Eurobodalla Orchid Club	CWA Hall, Queen Street, Moruya
23 July	9.00am-3.00pm			
27-30 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Newcastle	Edgeworth Shopping Centre Main Road, Edgeworth
28-31 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter (Mid)	Campbelltown & District	Narellan Town Centre Narellan
6-7 August	9.00am-4.00pm	Winter (Gosford Orchid Spectacular)	Gosford & District	Gosford Racecourse Cnr. Pacific Highway & Racecourse Road, Gosford
11-12 August	9.00am-7.00pm	Winter	Maitland & Coalfields District	Cessnock Supporters Club
13 August	9.00am-1.00pm			
13 August	TBA	Spring	Hastings River	Wauchope RSL Club, Young Street Wauchope
14 August	TBA	(Early)		
18-21 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Western Suburbs	Ashfield Mall Shopping Centre, Liverpool Road, Ashfield
19-20 August	9.00am-4.00pm	Winter	ANOS Warringah Group	St Ives Showground
21 August	9.00am-3.00pm	(St Ives Orchid Fair)	Ku-Ring-Gai, Manly Warringah, North Shore	Mona Vale Road St Ives
19-20 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Sapphire Coast	Twyford Hall Merimbula
21 August	9.00am-1.00pm			
20 August	10.00am-4.30pm	Winter	Bellingen Valley	Uniting Church Hall, Bellingen
22-23 August	8.00am-5.00pm	Spring (Early)	Macleay Valley	Credit Union Plaza, Kempsey
24-27 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	South Coast	Corrimal Park Mall, Princes Highway, Corrimal
25-28 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Central Coast Hunter Region Cymbidium	Lake Macquarie Fair, Mt. Hutton
Queensland				
10 June	(Not open to Public)	Winter	Tropical Qld	Mackay Entertainment Centre
11 June	9.00am-5.00pm	(Conference)	Orchid Council. Hosted by	Gordon Street, Mackay
12 June	8.00am-5.00pm		Mackay & District	

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
23-25 June	8.30am-9.00pm	Winter	Southport & Districts	Centro Nerang, 57 Station Street, Nerang
1-3 July	8.00am-4.00pm	Winter	North Moreton Qld Orchid Council	Auditorium, Botanic Gardens Mt. Coot-tha
6-9 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter (Pines Orchid Extravaganza)	Gold Coast (Combined with 4 other Societies)	Pines Shopping Centre K.P. McGrath Drive, Elnora
11 July	8.00am-11.00pm	Winter	Atherton Tablelands	Atherton Tablelands Agricultural Show Merrilands Hall, Atherton
15-16 July	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Caboolture	Memorial Hall, King Street Caboolture
17 July	9.00am-2.30pm			
23-24 July	9.00am-4.00pm	Winter	John Oxley District	Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha
30 July	10.00am-10.00pm	Winter	Tully & District	Tully Show, Tully Showground, Tully
31 July	10.00am-3.00pm			
5-6 August	8.30am-5.00pm	Winter	Darling Downs Orchid Assoc. Combined with Toowoomba & Native of Toowoomba	Walsh's Seeds & Garden Centre 881 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba
7 August	8.30am-5.00pm			
12-13 August	8.30am-5.00pm	Winter	Maroochydore	Millwell Road Community Hall, Maroochydore
14 August	8.30am-3.00pm	(Annual Show)		
18-20 August	8.30am-9.00pm	Winter	Southport & Districts	57 Station Street, Nerang
19-21 August	8.30am-4.00pm	Spring (Early)	Queensland	Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha
28-30 April	Shopping Centre Hours	Autumn	ANOS, Gold Coast Group	Runaway Bay Shopping Plaza, Runaway Bay
26 August	8.30am-5.00pm	Winter	Childers & Isis District	Isis Cultural Centre, Churchill Street, Childers
27 August	8.30am-2.30pm			
26-27 August	9.00am-3.30pm	Spring (Annual Show)	Noosa District Orchid & Foliage	Cooroy RSL Club, Cooroy
27-28 August	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring (Early)	ANOS (Kabi Group)	Lion's Hall, Lawnton Showgrounds, Gympie Road, Lawnton
27 August	8.30am-4.00pm	Winter	Logan & District	Logan Central Community Centre Cnr. Wembley Road & Jacaranda Avenue, Woodridge
28 August	8.30am-3.00pm			
27 August	8.30am-4.00pm	Spring	North Brisbane	Auditorium, Botanic Gardens
28 August	9.00am-4.00pm	(Annual Show)		Mt. Coot-tha



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SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
Victoria				
11 June	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Melbourne Eastern	Burwood East Uniting Church Community Hall, Cnr. Burwood Highway & Blackburn Road, East Burwood (opp. k-mart)
12 June	12.30pm-5.00pm			
13 June	9.00am-4.30pm			
11-12 June	TBA	Winter	Warrnambool District	Portland
25 June	9.00am-4.00pm	Winter	North East Melbourne	Bulleen Heights School Pleasant Road, Bulleen
26 June	10.00am-4.00pm			
2 July	12noon-4.00pm	Winter	Country Clubs Challenge	Technical School, McKenzie Street Cobden
3 July	9.00am-3.00pm			
9-10 July	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Maribyrnong	Maribyrnong Community Centre Randall St, Maribyrnong
10 July	9.00am-3.00pm	Winter	Maroondah	Blackburn High School, Williams Road, Blackburn
16 July	1.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Horsham & District	Horsham Sports & Community Club Baillie Street, Horsham
16-17 July	9.30am-4.30pm	Winter	Victorian Orchid	Red Cross Centre, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Entry Gate 8, Waterdale Road, Heidelberg
16 July	9.30am-5.00pm	Winter	Yarra Valley	B&t Ferns & Orchids 30 Wiseman Road, Silvan
17 July	9.30am-4.00pm			
22 July	9.00am-9.00pm	Winter	Sunraysia Orchid Club	Mildura Plaza Complex Cnr. Deakin Avenue & 15th Street, Mildura
23 July	9.00am-5.30pm			
24 July	10.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Melbourn Western	Werribee Racecourse (Members' Entrance) Bulban Road, Werribee
23-24 July	9.00am-4.00pm			
23 July	9.00am-4.30pm	Winter	Warringal	St Sava Community Hall 212 Diamond Crack Road, Greensborough
24 July	9.30am-4.30pm			
30 July 7 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Mornington Peninsula	Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre Cranbourne
13-14 August	10.00am-4.30pm	Winter	Geelong Orchid & Indoor Plant Club	Vines Road Community Centre 49 Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights
13 August	10.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Stawell	Halls Gap Hall Halls Gap
14 August	10.00am-4.00pm			
19-21 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	OSCOV	Collectors Corner/Gardenworld, Springvale Road, Keysborough
26-28 August	10.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Gippsland Orchid Club	Mid Valley Plaza, Princes Drive, Morwell
27-28 August	9.30am-4.00pm	Winter	West Gippsland	RSL Rooms, Smith Street, Warragul
South Australia				
1 July	12noon-5.00pm	Winter	Murray Bridge & District Orchid Club	Murray Bridge Racing Club Maurice Road, Murray Bridge
2-3 July	10.00am-4.00pm			
10-16 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter (40th Ruby Anniversary Show)	South Australian Orchidaceous	Parabanks Shopping Centre 68 Tom Street, Salisbury
15 July	10.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Port Augusta Orchid Club	Port Augusta Garden Club Room Elizabeth Terrace, Pt. Augusta
16 July	10.00am-2.00pm			
16-17 July	10.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Port Lincoln Orchid Club	Kallinyalla Nursery
24-30 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia	Colonnades Shopping Centre Noarlunga
30 July 31 July	12noon-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Spring Riverland	Berri Senior Citizens Clubrooms Crawford Terrace, Berri
Western Australia				
26-27 July	8.30am-5.00pm	Winter	Bunbury	Bunbury Forum Bunbury
28 July	8.30am-9.00pm			
29-30 July	8.30am-5.00pm			
28 July	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Albany	North Road Shopping Centre Albany
29 July	9.00am-6.00pm			
30 July	9.00am-1.00pm			
28-31 July	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA	Ezi-Gro Orchids, 76 Evandale Road Landsdale
28 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Peel Region	Warnbro Fair Shopping Centre Warnbro Sound Avenue, Warnbro
28-30 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Wanneroo	Newpark Shopping Centre, Marangaroo Do. Girrawheen
25-27 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Wanneroo	Lakeside Joondalup, Shopping Centre
Northern Territory				
4-5 June	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter (Dry Season)	Litchfield Orchid Club	Marrara Indoor Stadium, Darwin
New Zealand				
17 July	12noon-4.00pm	Winter	Waikato	Hamilton Gardens Pavilion, Hamilton
6-7 August	10.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Hawkes Bay	Taradale Town Hall, Cnr. Lee & Meeanee Rds, Taradale
1-4 September	10.00am-6.00pm	Spring	Waikato	Claudlands Showgrounds

Australian Orchid Review

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25-26 June 2005 – Orchids at Mingara, Central Coast, NSW

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6-7 August 2005 – Gosford Orchid Spectacular, Gosford Racecourse, NSW

19-21 August 2005 – Melbourne International Orchid Spectacular, Vic

19-21 August 2005 – St Ives Orchid Fair, NSW

1-4 September 2005 – NZ Orchids 2005 Expo, Hamilton, New Zealand

13-19 September 2005 – Western Australia Orchid Spectacular, WA

24-25 September 2005 – Orchids in the Wetlands, Newcastle, NSW

8-9 October 2005 – NSW South & West Regional Orchid Show, Lavington, NSW

9 October 2005 – Hills District Orchids Open Day, Northmead, NSW

12-13 November 2005 – Stawell Orchid Society Fair/Seminar/Summer Show, Victoria

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